



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Kristen Cullotta

312-994-4242

kcullotta@nationalable.org

**National Able Network Names Matthew Weis as President & CEO**  
***Unanimous Vote by Board of Directors***

CHICAGO (February 2023) – Matthew Weis, President of leading workforce development non-profit, National Able Network, will serve as President & CEO, a transition that was supported through a unanimous vote by the Board of Directors. Bridget Altenburg, who has served as President & CEO, Chief Operating Officer, and most recently CEO, will step down in late spring, 2023.

Longtime executive staff member Matt Weis was selected to succeed Ms. Altenburg after a unanimous vote by National Able Network’s Board of Directors in November 2022. Mr. Weis’ appointment comes as part of the organization’s succession plan and strategic vision.

"The Board of Directors was thrilled to have a succession plan that ensures the continuity of our mission," said Tammy McMiller, Board Chair. "Matt Weis is an expert in workforce development and is an exceptional leader and we are thrilled to support this transition."

Mr. Weis joined National Able Network in 2014 to oversee career pathway programs that help vulnerable job seekers, and led to significant programmatic expansion efforts of the IT Career Lab vocational training operations. Mr. Weis also launched expansion and innovation in the way that SNAP recipients are served by the organization, including developing and launching Illinois’ first-ever SNAP Intermediary role which is currently operated by National Able Network. As Chief Program Officer, Mr. Weis developed and implemented a number of strategies to ensure operational continuity and ongoing adaptation to the changing job market for National Able Network’s core programs at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

“With a skills mismatch in the labor market and inequity in unemployment for our country’s most-in-need workers, we are at a pivotal point in our organization’s history where we are well-positioned for growth,” Weis said. “Our communities need access and innovation in workforce development programs and services, both of which are hallmarks of our service delivery portfolio.”

Growing up in a rural Wisconsin farming community and working alongside migrant farm workers during his first job, at an early age Mr. Weis was exposed to the connection between work, dignity, and the universal impact that family sustaining employment can have on people from diverse backgrounds. After relocating to Chicago, Mr. Weis began his career in 2005 within the workforce development arena by coaching job seekers enrolled in vocational training programs and connecting them with area employers. Mr. Weis’ passion grew as he moved into managing and overseeing numerous employment

programs which assisted people from marginalized and underrepresented communities with job readiness. Notably, his work with residents of Chicago Housing Authority developments and justice involved individuals galvanized his belief that everyone should be able to achieve economic stability through meaningful employment, culminating in Mr. Weis working as part of a small team to create and oversee the “Put Illinois to Work” public works program that provided over 25,000 unemployed individuals with training and employment during the height of the 2008 recession. Throughout his career, Mr. Weis has worked tirelessly to advocate for impactful investments and solutions that focus on assisting vulnerable and marginalized communities, while jointly ensuring that the needs of the business community continue to drive the creation of demand-focused and sustainable talent pipelines. Mr. Weis served on the Chicago Jobs Council board of directors for eight years, participated in the United States Department of Agriculture’s SNAP Employment and Training Public/Private group at the request of former Secretary Perdue, and has been interviewed and quoted as a workforce expert by major publications.

Mr. Weis’ passion for creating high-performing programs has made him a fierce advocate for equitable investments focused on creating a sustainable and inclusive workforce. He aims to build upon National Able Network’s strong history of equity, while expanding the agency’s programming and service delivery footprint through the creation of innovative solutions for the ever-changing job market.

When reflecting on her legacy and her hopes for workforce development in the future, Ms. Altenburg said, “It has truly been an honor to work with colleagues, partners, and lawmakers in addressing the challenges and opportunities that thousands of job seekers face each day. My role at the organization may be changing, but my commitment to our mission will continue long after my transition.”

Ms. Altenburg has served as President & CEO since 2018, and prior to that served as the organization’s Chief Operating Officer. Among her many accomplishments as CEO, Ms. Altenburg helped navigate through the pandemic, contributed critical policy changes for federally-funded programs that serve thousands of low-income individuals and seniors, and launched the organization’s equity strategy. Ms. Altenburg has also been a vocal advocate for job seeker populations who face barriers to employment, including military veterans and those who identify as LGBTQ+. In recent years, she was recognized for her leadership for both veterans and LGBTQ+ issues by Crains Chicago Business.

At National Able Network, our mission is to help make careers happen. Each client receives personalized career supports that integrate career coaching, specialized training, and direct connections to the job market. Our programs are designed to assist jobseekers from all backgrounds, including the unemployed, career changers, military veterans, seniors, and aspiring IT professionals. Each year, National Able Network provides service to nearly 75,000 individuals in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota and Nebraska.

###