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**BURTON D. MORGAN FOUNDATION CEO AND PRESIDENT DEBORAH D. HOOVER ANNOUNCES 2022 DEPARTURE**

*Following a fourteen-year tenure at the Northeast Ohio-based organization, the celebrated Foundation leader leaves a legacy of spreading the entrepreneurial spirit far and wide*

**CLEVELAND** (October 4, 2021) – Burton D. Morgan Foundation, Northeast Ohio's philanthropic champion of the entrepreneurial spirit, today announces the departure of Deborah D. Hoover, Chief Executive Officer and President. Ms. Hoover has led Morgan Foundation since 2007 and will continue in her current role until the end of June 2022.

“Deb has done an exemplary job of guiding the Morgan Foundation and instilling an entrepreneurial mindset in children, teens and college students on their path to success,” says Richard N. Seaman, Chairman of the Board. “She has also played a significant role in shaping our adult entrepreneur programs and forging partnerships for all to access knowledge, mentors and financing. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are grateful to Deb for her long-term commitment, and we wish her success on her next venture.”

During Ms. Hoover’s tenure, more than $70 million in grants have been awarded by Burton D. Morgan Foundation. She expanded its core focus to be on entrepreneurship grantmaking and was instrumental in establishing the Foundation’s Northeast Ohio Collegiate Entrepreneurship Program, a Kauffman CampusesSM Initiative, to spread entrepreneurship across liberal arts campuses. Ms. Hoover supported the founding of the Burton D. Morgan Mentoring Program at JumpStart, forged a relationship with Blackstone Charitable Foundation to bring LaunchPad to Ohio and initiated NEOLaunchNET, a collegiate experiential startup program. She also spearheaded the establishment of a Scalerator™ program in Northeast Ohio which to date has operated five Northeast Ohio cohorts to help mid-sized companies prosper.

While at the helm of Burton D. Morgan Foundation, she played a leadership role to expand the Young Entrepreneur Institute (YEI), nurtured the Enspire Conference for educators, and expanded the NEO youth entrepreneurship ecosystem in partnership with YEI. Ms. Hoover also played an important oversight role on seven Foundation-funded building projects including Hiram College, Ashland University, The College of Wooster, Purdue University, Denison University, Old Trail School and Western Reserve Academy. Ms. Hoover shepherded these and the renovation of the Foundation’s headquarters and the Baldwin House – both in Hudson, Ohio.

Throughout her professional career, Ms. Hoover has received a series of awards and accolades, including a 2016 recognition for Outstanding Contributions to Advancing Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Higher Education from the national Deshpande Symposium. In 2015, the Cleveland Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals honored Morgan Foundation with the Foundation Leadership Award and in 2014, Ms. Hoover received the Northeast Ohio EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the Nonprofit and Education Services category. Additionally, Ms. Hoover was distinguished by the national Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education with a Leadership and Advocacy Award in 2010. She was honored as a Crain’s Cleveland Business “Woman of Note” in 2010 and over time, earned a series of placements on the Power and Influencer lists from both Crain’s and Cleveland Magazine.

Ms. Hoover currently sits on the Team NEO Board, on the international Board of Candid, as Board Chair of Bounce Innovation Hub and Entrepreneurship Funders Network, and as Co-Chair for the Deshpande Symposium, an annual convening for innovators and entrepreneurship leaders on university campuses. Ms. Hoover also serves on the Board of the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Her past involvement includes serving as co-chair of Forward Cities Cleveland (2014-2016); Chair of the Fund for Our Economic Future (2013-2015); and as a member of the Regional Competitiveness Council (2014) to help drive reorganization of our region’s economic development system.

Additionally, Ms. Hoover’s achievements include being a Smart Business columnist (2014 to present); contributing to two published books on collegiate ecosystems; and as a national, regional, and local speaker and a regular blog author across many platforms.

Ms. Hoover earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Williams College and a Master of Arts in Art History from the University of Chicago. She continued graduate studies at George Washington University’s National Law Center where she earned a Juris Doctor degree and was a member of the Law Review. Ms. Hoover is a member of the bar in the District of Columbia, New Hampshire, and Ohio and holds an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Baldwin Wallace University. She earned a second master’s degree in Cultural History from Kent State University in December 2018, where she explored the direct connections between entrepreneurship and philanthropy in America.

Prior to joining Burton D. Morgan Foundation, Hoover held positions at the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation (now Peg’s Foundation) as Executive Director (2001 – 2005); GAR Foundation as Senior Program Officer and Legal Counsel (1998 – 2004) and Program Officer (1994 – 1995); Project Manager at the United Way Ballarat Community Fund (1998); Vision Australia as Development Officer (1996 – 1998); and as an attorney for a selection of esteemed east coast firms (1983 – 1990).

When Ms. Hoover departs Morgan Foundation, she will take on the role of consultant at her own firm, Feldspar Consulting Group ([thefeldspargroup.com](http://www.thefeldspargroup.com/)). The practice will work at the intersection of entrepreneurship and philanthropy helping nonprofits, philanthropy, educators, and communities devise strategies and create strong networks to support the efforts of entrepreneurs and ecosystem builders.

“As I take the next step in my career, I can’t help but reflect on the many accomplishments and memories I have been so fortunate to be part of during my time at Burton D. Morgan Foundation,” says Deborah D. Hoover. “The last 14 years have been extremely rewarding and I am grateful to have contributed to an organization so close to my heart and worked with such outstanding staff members and trustees.”

The Burton D. Morgan Foundation Board of Trustees will be leading a national search for a new CEO and President.

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**About Burton D. Morgan Foundation**

Founded in 1967 by visionary entrepreneur and philanthropist Burt Morgan, the mission of Burton D. Morgan Foundation is to champion the entrepreneurial spirit, contribute to a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem, and serve as a leader in the field of entrepreneurship education.  Morgan Foundation pursues its mission through grantmaking in support of Youth, Collegiate, and Adult Entrepreneurship; through regional ecosystem building to provide strong networks for startups and scaleups; and through knowledge sharing bolstered by its research arm, the Entrepreneurship Education Experiment. To find out more, visit us at [www.bdmorganfdn.org](http://www.bdmorganfdn.org).