

**American Youth Policy Forum Names
Stephanie McGencey Executive Director**
Experienced executive to lead the national policy organization

WASHINGTON (December 17, 2019) - The American Youth Policy Forum's (AYPF) Board of Directors today announced Stephanie McGencey has been unanimously selected as the organization's new executive director.

McGencey's appointment follows a national search after longtime AYPF Executive Director Betsy Brand announced her retirement earlier this year following 21 years of service to the organization.

"We are thrilled to have a leader of Stephanie's caliber lead AYPF into its successful next chapter," said Lorelle Espinosa, chair of AYPF's board. "Her expertise and dedication to ensuring that policymakers have the information they need to create better outcomes for our youth make her a perfect fit for AYPF."

McGencey brings more than three decades of experience working with organizations, funders and policymakers to advance holistic, evidence-based and strategic approaches to public policy in youth development, mental health, juvenile justice and more.

She most recently served as the senior director of the Ready Reentry Project for the Convergence Center for Policy Resolution, an organization focused on solving social challenges through collaboration.

McGencey has also been the executive director of Grantmakers for Children, Youth, and Families and a senior leader at the Council on Foundations. She is also founder and president of the Women's Equity Center and Action Network.

"AYPF has been an effective voice of underserved youth for over 25 years. It is an honor to have the opportunity to work with our board, staff and partners to shepherd the organization to its next stage," said McGencey, who starts Jan. 6.

McGencey replaces longtime leader, Betsy Brand, who joined AYPF as Co-Director in 1998 and who has served as Executive Director since 2004. Under Brand's leadership, AYPF burnished a national reputation for comprehensive approaches to education, workforce, and youth policy that help young people be prepared for today's careers, lifelong learning, and civic engagement.

A full biography for Dr. Stephanie McGencey can be found on [AYPF's website](#).

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About the American Youth Policy Forum:

AYPF's mission is to educate, engage, and inform policymakers and practitioners about education, youth, and workforce policies to improve the lives and outcomes of traditionally underserved youth. We carry out this mission by providing research-based information and resources, first-hand learning experiences, convenings, and peer-to-peer networking exchanges to policymakers and youth-serving leaders at the national, state, and local levels. For more information, visit www.aypf.org.