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**Employment Resources Incorporated Announces New President**

**(Fredericksburg, VA)** – Employment Resources Incorporated (ERI) and the Gladys H. Oberle School has a new President. On March 1, 2016, Mr. Roarke L. Anderson took over the top position at ERI as Joan P. McLaughlin prepares for retirement. Mrs. McLaughlin is co-founder of ERI, a local employment training and education focused not-for-profit and has served as President for over 25 years.

“Roarke Anderson brings a vast amount of leadership, training and management experience to the organization with 38 years of service in the United States Marine Corps,” said McLaughlin. “I am so thrilled we were able to hire a person with such impeccable credentials and leadership and management skills to lead our organization into the future.”

Mr. Anderson received his Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) degree from North Central College in Naperville, IL in 1984. He obtained his Master of Arts in Business Management degree in 1999 from the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, KS. In 2004, Anderson completed his second Master’s degree with a Master of Science degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the US Naval War College in Newport, RI.

Anderson began his Marine Corps career as an enlisted man in 1975 serving as a communications specialist at Camp Pendleton near San Diego, California. He remained in his communications position until 1978.

From 1978-1980, Anderson moved into an elite unit as a Marine Corps Security Guard, protecting United States Embassies around the world. His first assignment was at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran. He was transferred to his second assignment prior to the November 1979 Iran hostage crisis. In 1979 he arrived at his second assignment providing security at the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Anderson left active duty and became a member of the Marine Corps Forces Reserve from 1980-1984 while pursuing his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. Upon graduation, he returned to active duty in the Marine Corps as a commissioned officer with the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant.

He served from 1984-1988 in a variety of places in the Marine Corps Operating Forces. From 1988-1991 he was assigned to the Marine Barracks Washington, DC, the oldest active post in the Marine Corps.

After attending the Marine Corps' Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, VA for one year, Anderson was transferred in 1992 to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he served as the Communications Officer until 1995.

Over the next several years, Anderson's stellar career in the United States Marine Corps was nothing short of exemplary. He served in a variety of posts as his responsibilities increased with each promotion he received. His posts were as follows: Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Communication Electronics Operation School, 29 Palms, CA (1995-1998); Chief of Computers and Computer Support, U.S. Forces, Japan (1999-2001); Commanding Officer, 8<sup>th</sup> Communications Battalion, Camp Lejeune, NC (2001-2003); Chief, Director's Action Group, J6, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Pentagon (2004-2006); Assistant Chief of Staff, J6, Camp Lejeune and Fallujah, Iraq (2006-2008); USMC Representative to the Joint Chiefs of Staff Working Group, Pentagon (2008-2009); Commanding Officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, Arlington, VA (2009-2011).

In his final position, Anderson served from 2011-2014 as Chief of Staff of the Marine Corps Base, Quantico. After 38 years of service to our nation, he retired as a Colonel on June 30, 2014 and spent some well-deserved time with his family.

Anderson's duties as President of Employment Resources Incorporated include managing a staff of 39 employees while overseeing the entire operations of ERI's employment training and educational programs and services at the Gladys H. Oberle School campus located at ERI's headquarters in downtown Fredericksburg. "I'm extremely excited and humbled to be given the opportunity to serve the community in this capacity," said Anderson. "The work ERI does in providing our youth a safe and individualized avenue for success is inspiring."

Anderson will use his leadership skills to help the organization grow and assist more people in our region in need of employment training and education opportunities. Day-to-day operations and developing a strategic vision for the future of ERI will be Anderson's main focus as he settles into his new position. "Working with the community, together we will continue to make a difference and have a positive impact on our young peoples' lives," added Anderson.

Employment Resources Incorporated is a private not-for-profit organization with offices located in Fredericksburg, Virginia that serves the city of Fredericksburg and multiple cities and counties in the region. ERI operates the Gladys H. Oberle School in Fredericksburg, an accredited alternative private special education day school for high school age children which includes The Wilson Center for Vocational Studies programs. Its mission is to provide youth and young adults with the education and skills they need to become successfully employed, self-sufficient and contributing members of their community.

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