



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### News Release

YMCA of Columbia-Willamette

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### **Nationally Recognized Y Leader Joins the YMCA of Columbia-Willamette**

*New President and CEO Tyler Wright Brings Y Spirit and So Much More to the Community*

Portland, OR, Dec. 2, 2019—With more than 30 years of professional YMCA experience [Tyler Wright](#) has a passion for the Y mission, as well as an abundance of energy and enthusiasm, which will be front and center as he steps into the leadership role of President and Chief Executive Officer at the [YMCA of Columbia-Willamette](#).

Wright's successful career includes his most recent experience as President and CEO at the [YMCA of the Foothills](#), a position he has held since 2010. His tireless commitment as a strategic, cause-driven local, regional and national leader with Y-USA, includes his role as a nationally-recognized speaker in the Y movement.

Wright replaces Bob Hall, who has led the organization since 2003, and who announced his [retirement](#) earlier this year. Hall has served the local YMCA association for the last 34 years, and originally joined the Y in the position of Chief Financial Officer.

Board Chair Charmin Shiely announced Wright's hire with these thoughts. "Tyler's commitment to the Y movement can be seen in his 30 plus years as a mission-driven and innovative leader. We are thrilled to have Tyler bring his immense knowledge and diverse skillset to our Y."

### **Meet Tyler Wright**

The son of a professional ballroom dancer and bluegrass singer, Wright was pursuing a career as an actor and dancer before he found his calling in the YMCA in 1987. That eclectic background served him well as he began his Y career as a volunteer camp director for the Wilshire YMCA in Los Angeles and his subsequent work at multiple YMCAs in California. Wright served as President and CEO at both the Helena Family YMCA in Helena, MT and most recently at the YMCA of the Foothills in La Canada, CA.

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One of the biggest accomplishments of Wright's tenure at the YMCA of the Foothills was the purchase of Foothill Athletic Club in 2016, now known as Crescenta Valley YMCA.

As Wright prepared for his move north he looked forward to making his home in the Pacific Northwest. Wright also had this to say, "I am honored to be given the opportunity to lead this charitable worthy YMCA association, which has served the local area well for more than 150 years. And, I can't wait to get started."

Wright is excited about the journey ahead and the opportunity to become a leader in the Northwest. He has mapped out his first 90 days, which includes meeting local business and nonprofit leaders and other key stakeholders. Wright also plans to familiarize himself with the organization's history, learn about pressing community needs and connect with the association's volunteer leaders and leadership staff. Wright said, "One of my top priorities as I learn more about our local Y association, and the communities we serve, is the development of a new Strategic Plan to guide us in 2020 and beyond. My goal is to understand and then better meet the growing and changing needs of our community."

Board Chair Charmin Shiely also said, "This is a truly exciting time for Tyler to join the YMCA of Columbia-Willamette. Our Board of Trustees looks forward to what we know will be amazing work from Tyler and the association. I personally look forward to coming alongside him in the weeks, months and years ahead as we continue to shape our YMCA."

### **About the YMCA**

The YMCA of Columbia-Willamette is a catalyst for transformation change, fostering relationships and building thriving, inclusive communities. We offer quality, affordable, life-enriching programs at more than 200 community locations in the Portland and Vancouver regional area. Our program offerings include youth sports, camping, early childhood development, school enrichment and health and wellness. We are a 501(3)(c) nonprofit and have served the local community for more than 150 years. [ymcacw.org](http://ymcacw.org)

### **Mission**

To put the Christian principles of love, respect, honesty, responsibility and service into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

### **More Information**

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