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Indianapolis, IN 46204

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Currently, I serve as the President of CAEL (Council for Adult and Experiential Learning), a national, nonprofit membership organization that supports the creation of education-to-career pathways, fueling economic mobility and community prosperity for all. Previously, I was the CEO of Partner4Work, the public workforce system for Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, as well as Employ Milwaukee.

Karen Gotzler and I have worked together since I was employed at Big Step, prior to its merger with Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP). At the time, Karen was working with the Metropolitan Milwaukee Sewerage District (MMSD) to create an outcome-based minority business development program. WRTP was the first recognized “workforce intermediary” and I later worked with Karen again in her role as Director of the Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance. Karen conducted an organizational and financial assessment of WRTP and then supported the joint funding collaborative to financially support WWRTP in workforce development endeavors.

When I served as CEO of Employ Milwaukee, we contracted with Karen to further develop the model and write a joint funding application for millions of dollars for three Workforce Investment Boards in the Midwest to share job training and apprenticeship resources. This Midwest collaborative continues to this day.

Karen understands public and private funding and the partnerships needed to enrich them. She has the ability to deal with people from all backgrounds and all skill levels and she is a consensus-builder. I believe she is an excellent choice for this role.

I highly recommend Karen Gotzler to hold a position on the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee.

Respectfully,

Earl Buford, President  
CAEL