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Arkansas Energy Personnel Moves: Arkansas Advanced Energy Association Executive Director Steve Patterson Announces Retirement

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The Arkansas Advanced Energy Association ("AAEA") issued a September 23rd news release stating that Executive Director Steve Patterson is retiring.

Mr. Patterson is also Executive Director of AAEA's educational affiliate Arkansas Advanced Energy Foundation ("AAEF").

Ms. Katie Laning Niebaum has been named to succeed Mr. Patterson in both positions.

The AAEA characterizes itself as the business voice for the members of the advanced energy sector in the State of Arkansas. The organization states it is dedicated to growing Arkansas's economy through expanded utilization of advanced energy technologies, including energy efficiency, demand response, natural gas electric generation, solar, wind, hydro, nuclear, electric vehicles, alternative fuels and smart grid.

The news release notes that Steve Patterson "helped form both organizations" in 2011 and has served as Executive Director for the first five years of their development. Mr. Patterson previously served as a staff member for various members of Congress. His service included the position of Chief of Staff for former United States Senator Blanche Lincoln (Arkansas). He also developed and operates with Amanda Daugherty a strategic fundraising and event planning consulting company named CDP Strategies, LLC.

Mr. Patterson's retirement as Executive Director is scheduled to take place on October 31st and he will thereafter be "taking on a smaller advisory role through next year."

Ms. Niebaum previously served as Vice President for Communications for the National Restaurant Association in Washington, D.C.. Prior to that she served for more than seven years in the office of former United States Senator Blanche Lincoln. Her positions included service as the Senator's Communication Director. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia and a native of Little Rock.

[A copy of the news release can be downloaded here.](#)