

## Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Announce Leadership Transition

*Lifelong Chicagoan Deborah Lahey to Become President/CEO*

April 27, 2010



The board of the Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum announced today a leadership transition from current CEO Donna Gustafsson to Deborah Lahey, who currently serves as executive vice president and COO. Lahey will succeed Gustafsson and become president and CEO on July 1.

A lifelong Chicagoan with a personal passion for the Museum's environmental education and conservation work, Lahey brings a 10-year involvement with the Nature Museum and decades of work in Chicago's cultural community to her new role. As COO, Lahey was instrumental in developing the Museum's revitalized mission, which focuses on connecting children and adults from an urban environment to the nature and wildlife that can be found throughout the Chicago region.

Raising three children with a deep appreciation for nature while living in the city provided Deborah with a lifetime's worth of learning experiences. Today she shares her passion for discovering the nature that surrounds us with fellow urban dwellers at the Nature Museum. Working with a dedicated team of educators, scientists and conservationists, Deb shapes the Nature Museum's role as urban gateway to nature and science.

Having accomplished her goals to assess and address immediate needs to stabilize the institution's core competencies, Donna Gustafsson will transition from the CEO position. From the beginning of her service, Gustafsson made it clear to the board that once she and the board accomplished these specific goals, her desire would be to transition out of the CEO role and to ensure a well-planned transition. The leadership team will work closely with the board and staff to ensure a smooth transition through July 1.