

## Introducing Valerie B. Traore

I am excited to share with you that Valerie B. Traore has been selected to fill the position of Executive Director of the Association of Community Services.

Valerie brings a deep understanding of the nonprofit sector from her time in service as President and CEO for The Food Bank of South Jersey, Inc. and Vice-President of Programs and Services for City Harvest in New York City. She's a graduate of Coppin State University and holds a Certificate in Nonprofit Executive Leadership from Stanford University. She's spent the last few years launching a family business and now looks forward to returning to Howard County and making it her permanent home.



After an extensive search that included member and community engagement to assess current needs and opportunities for growth, a diverse slate of candidates from a wide range of experiences and backgrounds were interviewed and Valerie emerged as the best fit. The Board is now looking forward to formally introducing you to this outstanding community leader who will begin working with retiring Executive Director Joan Driessen on September 6. Joan's retirement date is September 30.

Valerie is thrilled to be joining ACS and to continue fulfilling its mission to advocate, connect, and strengthen our nonprofit community. We look forward to sharing her vision and passion to keep ACS a strong, innovative, and valuable organization for our community, and help us grow it to its next level of excellence.

Please join us in giving Valerie a warm welcome to the Association of Community Services.

Sincerely,

Brooke McCauley  
Board President