

The Journey Continues



As we have learned from Rich Harwood ... communities have different rhythms/stages—and so do we as people. Since the Patterson Foundation first engaged with the Harwood Institute, the Aspirations to Actions (AZA) initiative has continuously evolved. We now say farewell to Beth Doyle and welcome Deborah Gauvreau as the leader of AZA.

Beth has been a joyous, can-do leader, embracing possibilities at every turn. While we will miss her cheerful presence, we know that the Harwood techniques are part of her personal DNA and she will be using them as she continues to make an impact through her work and in life.

Deborah Gauvreau is a seasoned TPF leader and has embraced Harwood techniques from the opening day of the Public Innovators Lab last September. She, along with Bill Little and Alicia Chalmers, will continue to thoughtfully embed and spread AZA in the journey ahead.

Many know that I often "think" in music, lyrics, and song titles. For evidence, please see my October 31st newsletter: [A Look Back: Cohort 1's "Greatest Hits" 2014-2015](#). Over the years, I have been surprised to learn that I am not alone in this, so it seems fitting that I carry on the tradition now as a say "[So Long, Farewell!](#)" (Sound of Music, of course!)



In response to recent health concerns, it is time to get my life, health, and work back into balance. In addition, my husband and I are moving back to Pinellas County in the next couple months, so we'll soon be "[On the Road Again!](#)" (Willie Nelson, of course!)

If ever there was a "perfect time" for a leadership change, it is now. [Aspirations to Actions](#) is strong and ready for what's ahead. Staff from both the Manatee and Sarasota library systems have turned outward and are actively and enthusiastically engaging the community, and we're all learning along the way. Even our friends from the first Harwood Lab in 2014 continue to connect and "route the community, not the conference room, their reference point." Rich Harwood, along with our Harwood Coaches, Bill Booth and Carlton Sears, train, support, and inspire us in so many ways. The Patterson Foundation's Debra Jacobs -- our #1 AZA fan -- along with [Carol Lugo](#), [Nancy Henry](#), [Stacy Stenberg](#) and others, make our work possible, often behind the scenes, with all kinds of encouragement, talent, and resources. And, finally, the care and attention to detail that our "Guides on the Side," Bill Little and Alicia Chalmers, along with previous guides Mike Mansfield and Pam Trutt, provide to our Teams proves that they are "[Simply the Best!](#)" (Tina Turner, of course!)

I'm thrilled that [Deborah Gauvreau](#) will be taking the wheel of this very special initiative we call Aspirations to Actions. It's more than an initiative, though. It's the legacy that [Cathy Baultis](#) left to us and that all of us are making happen by being "[Happy Together!](#)" (The Turtles, of course!)

Aspirations to Actions will benefit greatly from an infusion of new ideas, strategy and energy, and Deborah is the perfect one to give it that "shot in the arm!" (Yes, the pun is intended and if you check out the other initiatives she's leading, you'll understand.) Deborah's passion for and understanding of the work, along with her "percolating ideas" to engage and align, are all timely aspirations and she's ready to help us "[Come Together!](#)" (The Beatles, of course!)

While we "practice the practice," we must never forget that what we are doing is about people. And I want you to know that the greatest part of this journey, for me, has been all of you (yes, ALL of you)! So, I'd like to say from the bottom of my heart: "[Thank You!](#)" (Dido, of course!)

And it now seems appropriate to end leaving you with my signature smiley face :-)) and by borrowing the sentiment shared by the Public Innovators at our Harwood Lab last September, that "[This Just Was, Time of the Life!](#)" (Of course, the Dirty Dancing version is most widely known, but Lab 2's rendition will always be my favorite.)

Beth Doyle



"Having attended the September Public Innovators Lab, I am thrilled to have the honor, privilege, and opportunity to work with Aspirations to Actions. Just the name of the initiative gives me goose bumps! Beth is sharing a thorough orientation so I can learn and come up to speed about what has transpired and is evolving since the outset of the initiative. I'll begin sitting in on meetings right away, so we can together seamlessly support Beth's transition plans. I realize I have big shoes to fill as Beth steps into other personal and professional pathways, and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the amazing people involved in Aspirations to Actions in our region. In advance, a word of thanks to everyone who is part of the important work of advancing positive community action by inspiring people and communities to turn outward!"

Thanks,
Deborah

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