



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Alexis Korczynski
Title: Director of Marketing
Email: akorczynski@forcvnp.org
Phone: 330.805.1694

**Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park Chief Development Officer John P. Debo, Jr.
Retires after 10 Years of Service**

PENINSULA, Ohio (January 23, 2020) – John P. Debo, Jr., has retired from his role as Chief Development Officer after serving 10 years with the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Prior to his tenure at the Conservancy, Debo worked for the National Park Service for 33 years, with 21 years as Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) Superintendent.

During his time with the Conservancy, Debo led many successful capital campaigns. He laid the foundation for capital project fundraising success by signing up 57 “Stanford Stars,” \$1,000 donors that contributed to the Stanford House rehabilitation project in 2011. He also led the organization in a fundraising effort to surpass \$1 million in unrestricted “general operating” donations to the Conservancy. Just a few months prior to Debo’s retirement, Cuyahoga Valley National Park’s Boston Mill Visitor Center opened to the public. Debo guided the Conservancy’s \$7.1 million fundraising campaign for the project by securing two \$1 million donations to supplement corporate and community support.

“During my time with the Conservancy, I was able to see the organization evolve from a small non-profit friends group to a nationally recognized powerhouse for Cuyahoga Valley National Park, under the superb leadership of Deb Yandala and a talented cast of staff and board contributors,” Debo reflected. “I hope the National Park Service and Conservancy will continue to see CVNP as a work in progress and believe they will achieve much success in their current intensive effort to make the park more accessible and user friendly to diverse visitors.”

The Conservancy has hired Sheryl L. Hoffman as Debo’s successor. Hoffman brings with her more than 25 years of employment and volunteer service in the non-profit sector and is already leading all fundraising efforts for the Conservancy, including one to complete the purchase of Brandywine Golf Course, which was announced by the Conservancy in October of 2019.

“John’s park and fundraising leadership helped the national park become one of the region’s premier assets,” Deb Yandala, Conservancy CEO shared. “Park visitors benefit every day from his accomplishments.”

###



About the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park is the official friends group and philanthropic partner for Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) – Ohio’s only national park. With a mission to enrich lives and our communities by inspiring use, appreciation and support of CVNP and ensure its preservation, the Conservancy offers cultural and educational programming, operates a year-round environmental education center, comanages the park’s volunteer program, provides venues for weddings, meetings and special events, and operates three park retail spaces.