



For Immediate Release

Spring Mills, PA (December 19, 2019)-- Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) Advisory Board is excited to announce the selection of Katherine DiMatteo as Interim Executive Director beginning January 6, 2020. Katherine brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise that will assist PCO in moving forward on strategic initiatives to better serve our members and remain a top choice for those seeking organic certification.

DiMatteo has been a forward-thinking leader in the organic movement since 1990. She spent 16 years at the helm of the Organic Trade Association (OTA) where she was instrumental in shaping the outcome of the U.S. National Organic Program (NOP) Standards and securing Congressional support. Katherine is the Managing Partner and Senior Associate at Wolf, DiMatteo + Associates where she leads their policy, regulatory and international services.

The Advisory Board has been gathering input from members and organic stakeholders since June to help shape our future strategic priorities while exploring growth opportunities for the organization. Katherine will offer her expertise and vision to bring these priorities to life by setting a course for action. She will help lead PCO through its next growth phase while staying true to the integrity and service it strives to uphold for members and organic industry partners.

"PCO is a valued and respected organization that conducts its business with integrity. It is a privilege for me to be part of the PCO team and to work with the staff and board to continue its positive contributions and outstanding service to the organic community," stated DiMatteo. Over the next six months, Katherine will lend her expertise to implement the strategic plan, maintain PCO's financial viability and assist the Board in its search for a permanent Executive Director.

"I feel confident that bringing Katherine DiMatteo on board with her breadth and depth of experience will help us both with implementation of our strategic goals and with our search for a permanent Executive Director. These are exciting times for PCO!" stated Tina Ellor, Vice President of the board who leads the search team.

Successful transitions like these are only possible with a hardworking dedicated team. The PCO Board can't begin to express its appreciation and gratitude to Kyla Smith and Diana Underwood, who stepped into the role of interim Co-Executive Directors in September of 2018 and who have effectively been doing two jobs each ever since. Due to their leadership, commitment and experience, PCO's talented and dedicated staff has continued to deliver on its vision that all communities are enriched through organic food and farming and that its member farmers, producers and processors receive the best quality attention and certification services.

Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO)

pco@paorganic.org • www.paorganic.org • 106 School Street, Ste 201 • Spring Mills, PA 16875 • 814.422.0251 • fax 814.422.0255

The search for a permanent Executive Director is ongoing and robust. The board will keep stakeholders informed as it continues this search.

Any questions can be directed to Luke Howard, PCO Board President (phone: 410.708.3105, email: lukerichardhoward@gmail.com), or Tina Ellor, PCO Board Vice President (phone: 610.656.7250, email tephilmyco@aol.com).

PCO is a non-profit organization based in Spring Mills, Pennsylvania, that educates and certifies more than 1,600 organic farms and processors. For information on organic certification, contact PCO at www.paorganic.org, 814-422-0251.

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