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## PRESS RELEASE

MISSOULA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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### **Kim Latrielle to Retire as Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce President/CEO After 50 Years of Service**

Missoula, MT – The Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce is announcing the retirement of its esteemed President and CEO, Kim Latrielle, after more than five decades of unwavering dedication and transformative leadership. Tim Winger, Chair of the Board, made the announcement today. Ms. Latrielle's tentative retirement will be effective on January 30, 2024.

Kim Latrielle's illustrious career began in March 1973 when she joined the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce as a receptionist. Through her hard work, dedication, and natural leadership ability, she rose through the ranks and assumed the role of President/CEO in 1996. She has since been an instrumental force in the Chamber's growth and the driving force behind its many successes.

*"The Chamber, staff, its membership, and Board want to personally thank Latrielle for her dedication and leadership over the years. She has been critical to the success of the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce throughout her tenure as she worked to successfully fulfill the mission of the Chamber and expand our footprint as an organization. Now the difficult task of replacing Kim has begun with the Board developing a plan to begin the search for a new CEO."* **said Tim Winger, Chair of the Board.** The current staff, the Chamber Executive Committee, and Board will oversee the succession.

Kim's tenure was marked by innovation, community engagement, and economic development. Some of her significant achievements include:

- The creation of Leadership Missoula, which has been operating for 39 years and graduated over 1,638 future leaders for the community.
- Organizing large community events such as Rock 'n Roll Daze and Tough Enough to Wear Pink Rodeo.

- Establishing the first Neighborhood Watch in Missoula and participating in the establishment of Crimestoppers.
- Working collaboratively to secure \$16 Million for Accelerate MT rapid Training in 2021.
- Coordinating efforts in 2019 to secure a \$13.5 Million Build Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- Participated with five business leaders to raise all the funds that paid for Missoula County Stadium facilities located behind Big Sky High School. With the construction of a new locker room, bleachers, field, lights and PA system.

Kim, a native of Sidney, MT, and a graduate of Hellgate High School, underwent extensive professional training, including seven years of Chamber Institute and four years of post-graduate Chamber Institute training. Her dedication and acumen have been a cornerstone of the Chamber's achievements over the last 50 years.

*Reflecting on her years of service, Kim said, "serving the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. When I walked through the doors on March 15, 1973, I was met with a sense of purpose and a commitment to the business community that has stayed with me every single day. The trust bestowed upon me by the Board, the leadership, past leadership, and the businesses of Missoula to steer the largest business organization has been a great honor."*

*"Over the years, together, we have built programs that have empowered businesses, we have weathered economic storms, and celebrated countless achievements. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished and the strong foundations we have laid for continued success. As I approach this transition, my commitment to ensuring the stability and continuity of the Chamber remains unwavering. I will do everything in my capacity to support the programs, staff, financials, and membership through the hiring process. It is my sincere desire that the organization continues to thrive and serve as an anchor for the Missoula business community."*

*"I wish to express my deepest gratitude to this business community. This is a bittersweet time as I prepare to say farewell to an organization that has been an integral part of my life for so many years. My love and passion for the Chamber are as fervent today as they were when I began my journey. Thank you, Missoula business community and my forever friends, for the trust, the camaraderie, and the opportunities to make a difference."*

*"I am looking forward to this next chapter of my life" - "I'm going to take more time with family and visit for a longer stay. As most can imagine, I am not ready to fully retire, so I plan to find something where I can make a difference with all my connections built over 50 years in Missoula and across this state."*

The Chamber plans to honor Kim Latrielle's achievements and contributions with a celebration closer to her retirement date. Details will be announced in due course.

Some of Kim's other accomplishments with over 50 years of service to the business community:

- **2020-2022**: Served as Chair for the State of Montana Early Childhood Advisory Council.
- **2021**: Collaborated with the University of Montana to secure \$16 Million for the Accelerate Montana Rapid Training program.
- **November 2019**: Coordinated and collaborated with city, county, business, and environmental representatives for a Fly-In to Washington D.C., and successfully secured a \$13.5 Million BUILD Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- **1999**: Created a workforce connections website, which was later adopted by Governor Gianforte and the Department of Labor, featuring the "Earn While You Learn" program for connections to apprenticeships and trainings.
- **2010-Present**: Recognized as one of the American Association of Chamber Executives' "Emerging Leaders".
- **May 2007-2010**: Served as a member of the steering committee for the Missoula Events Center.
- **June 2003-June 2005**: Served as a member of the InBusiness Advisory Board for the Missoulian newspaper.
- **July 1996-1999**: Served as a board member of the Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation.
- **July 1996-Present**: Served as a staff member for the Missoula Chamber Rangers.
- **July 1996-Present**: Served as a staff member of the Executive Board of the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce, with responsibilities including oversight of staff and budget functions and policy administration.
- **July 1996-Present**: Served as a staff member of the Board of Directors of the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce, responsible for the strategic plan development and implementation. Accountable to all Chamber members for the appropriate use of funds and resources to promote and support business.
- **September 1990-January 1997**: Served over 25 years as a volunteer at the Western Montana Fair, organizing their fair information booth/red coats.
- **October 1990-1996**: Served on the Board of Directors of Opportunity Industries.
- **1983**: Established and created Leadership Missoula. In 1984, became a member of Leadership Montana 2.
- **Twice** Served as the Past President of the Montana Chamber of Commerce Executives Association.