



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **TASH Board of Directors Names Next Executive Director** *The TASH Board of Directors Names Ruthie-Marie Beckwith as Next Executive Director*

WASHINGTON, DC – Yesterday, TASH announced that its Board of Directors has named Dr. Ruthie-Marie Beckwith as executive director effective June 15, 2016.

"Ruthie-Marie's personal and professional experience as an advocate and a professional provides a unique match for TASH's commitment to equity, opportunity, and inclusion," said Ralph Edwards, TASH board president, in a letter sent to TASH members yesterday. "She provides a vision for an evolving role for TASH in a changing socio-cultural, political landscape with technologies and outlooks affecting opportunities and challenges for individuals with disabilities."

Ruthie-Marie comes to TASH with over 35 years of experience in the disability field. She has been a consultant, researcher, educator, author, and expert witness/subject matter expert on civil and human rights, special education, Home and Community-Based Waiver eligibility and services, and the Olmstead v. L.C. decision.

Ruthie-Marie was the founding advisor and CEO of People First of Tennessee, Inc., a grassroots, non-profit, advocacy organization run by individuals with disabilities. The organization provides a forum for individuals with disabilities to work together to educate, advocate, and address issues that affect their quality of life and empowered participation as citizens in their community.

Ruthie-Marie will succeed Barbara Trader, current executive director, on June 15, 2016. To learn more about Ruthie-Marie, visit [www.tash.org/ruthie](http://www.tash.org/ruthie).

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*A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, TASH is an international grassroots leader in advancing inclusive communities through research, education and advocacy. Founded in 1975, we are a volunteer-driven organization that advocates for human rights and inclusion for people with the most significant disabilities and support needs – those most vulnerable to segregation, abuse, neglect and institutionalization. The inclusive practices we validate through research have been shown to improve outcomes for all people. More information about TASH can be found at [www.tash.org](http://www.tash.org).*