



For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

International Center of the Capital Region Announces Search for New Executive Director

Jennifer Zhao to Step Down this Summer

(Troy, N.Y.) – The [International Center of the Capital Region](#) (ICCR) Board of Directors announces a search has begun to find a new Executive Director of the nonprofit, after Jennifer Zhao, the current Executive Director, resigns later this summer.

“Ms. Zhao’s contribution to the organization and, consequently, our Region is immeasurable,” said Board President Mike O’Brien. “We are very sad to see her go, and can only hope to adequately fill her shoes to continue the mission of sharing diverse cultures.”

“It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the executive director for the International Center of the Capital Region,” said Zhao. “The ICCR is a respected organization with a long history of doing good for refugees and immigrants in the Capital Region. I’m extremely grateful to the board of directors as well as my colleagues, staff, and community for their support. It has been truly rewarding to rebrand and reintroduce ICCR to the Capital Region after the pandemic necessitated a pause of international travel and programming. While I only served for two years, I will never forget the friendships and connections made during this short time.”

“While I wish I could continue to see the organization grow and blossom, my family has been asked to relocate to Portland, Oregon, for a new position for my husband,” continues Zhao, “but there are so many more initiatives and ideas we are still waiting to implement. I firmly believe an effective Executive Director should be local and present, so continuing in my role in a remote capacity is not possible.”

Zhao has demonstrated significant growth of the organization in her short tenure as Executive Director. The youth programming is becoming more robust, having just celebrated the Regional [Academic World Quest](#) Championships, and she helped to establish the first annual [Achievement Awards](#), recognizing impactful individuals in our region who align with the nonprofit’s mission. She also developed the ICCR’s [“Everybody Eats” Food Passport](#),

celebrating the rich ethnic culture of our region and providing an avenue for everyone to experience it.

Zhao will remain in her position during the transition period to help onboard the new Executive Director. “The Capital Region will always hold a special place in my heart for me and my family. All three of my children were born here, and I have lived here for 18 years, which is the longest I’ve lived in any one place. I look forward to hearing good news from ICCR and hopefully visiting in the future.”

The International Center of the Capital Region (ICCR), is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, who has been welcoming and assisting international newcomers throughout New York’s Capital Region since 1956. They enable citizen ambassadors for professional and cultural exchanges through the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the U.S. Department of State’s premier professional exchange program, while promoting the diverse people, rich history, and unique assets of the Capital Region.

A search is underway, and those interested in applying for the position may do so by emailing a resume and cover letter to: info@iccralbany.org. A full job description may be found on the website: <https://iccralbany.org/careers/>

For more information on the International Center of the Capital Region, visit <https://iccralbany.org/>.

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