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Trident United Way's CEO Chris Kerrigan Announces Retirement

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. – Trident United Way released that its President & CEO Chris Kerrigan has announced his retirement, effective in early 2019.

"When I first arrived in Charleston in 1998, I had no idea that I would end up having the privilege of serving our Tri-County community for 20 years," Kerrigan said as he addressed the Board of Directors Thursday morning. "I'm extremely proud of the work our dedicated board, staff, funded partners and volunteers have done in advancing the critical mission of ensuring all of our neighbors have opportunities in education, financial stability and health and grateful to have been a part of it."

Trident United Way has undergone substantial transformation during Kerrigan's two decades at the helm, shifting away from acting as primarily a funding organization to one that embraces a community connector role that works to bring together for-profit, government and nonprofit agencies to solve larger challenges in education, financial stability and health that no single organization can solve alone. This re-envisioning of what a United Way can be has resulted in initiatives like the Reading by Third Project, sponsored by Trident United Way that brought all four local school districts together to address early childhood literacy rates. Healthy-Tri County, which brings together 50 community organizations including MUSC and Roper St. Francis to address health outcomes in the region, is another example of the collective impact work that Kerrigan has helped shepherd. Additionally, the Berkeley and Dorchester Prosperity Centers were established with partners Origin SC and Palmetto Goodwill under his leadership.

Kerrigan has enjoyed a 30-year career with United Way, serving at United Ways in Baltimore, Asheville, Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area and United Way of America, in Washington, D.C.

"The Trident United Way board is incredibly grateful to Chris Kerrigan for his years of service through United Way," said Trident United Way Board Chair P.J. Browning. "He has made so many significant contributions to the Tri-County community and we are proud to have grown alongside him. We wish him the best as he moves into retirement and look forward to carrying his vision for this community on through our next CEO."

Browning announced that a national search will begin in the coming months for Kerrigan's successor. Kerrigan will remain with Trident United Way through the period of transition, expected to happen in early 2019.