

# MEDIA ALERT



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## **AIU Hires Dr. Wendy Etheridge Smith as Director of Early Childhood and Community Services**

**PITTSBURGH – June 8, 2021** - The Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) is pleased to announce that Dr. Wendy Etheridge Smith has been hired as the organization’s new director of early childhood and community services. She will serve as a member of the Executive Leadership Team and will be responsible for providing leadership for the programs within the Early Childhood and Community Services Division, which supports preschool-aged children and their families in Allegheny County.

For more than 20 years, Dr. Smith has served children, youth and families in southwestern Pennsylvania as a leader in non-profit and social service organizations. She has excelled in setting a strategic visions, policies and procedures for the county’s network of family centers and early childhood initiatives. Most recently, Dr. Smith served as the director of the Early Learning Resource Center at Donnelly-Boland Associates, Inc.

Dr. Smith holds a doctorate and master’s degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and earned her bachelor’s degree from Harvard College. She serves on the board of a several non-profit organizations including the United Way of Southwestern PA and the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh, and lends her expertise to the FISA Foundation Grant Review Committee.

Dr. Robert Scherrer, the AIU’s executive director, said Dr. Smith is a strategic thinker with strong connections to community organizations which will enhance the AIU’s ability to advance its organizational priorities and fulfill its new strategic plan.

“We welcome Dr. Smith’s expertise as an accomplished executive and community leader. Her experience as a director of community initiatives and partnerships will be invaluable as the AIU continues to be a regional leader that supports young children, youth and families,” he said.

Dr. Smith will replace Dr. Catherine Lobaugh, who is retiring in June after more than 35 years of service in public education.

Further media queries can be directed to [Sarah McCluan](mailto:Sarah McCluan) at 412.394.3472.

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### **ABOUT THE AIU**

**An educational service agency, the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) is part of Pennsylvania’s public education system and serves schools, children, youth and families in suburban Allegheny County. Among the largest of the state’s 29 intermediate units, the AIU employs about 1,200 individuals and has an annual budget exceeding \$150 million.**