Association Veteran to Lead OFA

After a 10-month search, OFA - an Association of Horticulture Professionals has a new leader: Michael Geary.

The extensive search began last spring, after the unexpected death of OFA's then-CEO, John R. Holmes. Geary will start March 1.

"Michael’s strong management skills, focus on member needs, and association background will be important assets to the organization," said OFA President Danny Takao, Takao Nursery, Fresno, Calif.

Bobby Barnitz of Bob's Market & Greenhouse in Mason, W.V., headed the search committee, which worked with the OFA Board to choose a new chief executive.

OFA is widely known for its annual Short Course, which takes place each July in Columbus.

In his 18 years of association management and organizational development, Geary has been executive director of the American Institute of Architecture Students, senior director for the National Association of Home Builders, and has held senior staff positions with The Delta Chi Fraternity and the North American Interfraternity Conference.

"With the support of a visionary board and active membership and staff, OFA has become a leader in the horticulture industry," Geary said. "I look forward to continuing that tradition of success."

Geary is a graduate of the University of Florida, and has earned the designation of Certified Association Executive (CAE) from the American Society of Association Executives.

—Kate F. Penn
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