

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ROBERT R. MCCORMICK FOUNDATION APPOINTS  
CORNELIA GRUMMAN AS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**CHICAGO, August 4, 2015** — The [Robert R. McCormick Foundation](#) today announced the appointment of Cornelia Grumman as Director of the Education Program. She will oversee the Foundation’s Early Care and Education grant program, funding organizations and initiatives that help to assure that children have the best start before kindergarten and in the early classroom years.

“Cornelia comes to the McCormick Foundation with remarkable experience and a dynamic career in education and journalism,” said David Hiller, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCormick Foundation. “We are delighted that such a skilled, insightful leader will be spearheading our efforts to build wonderfully healthy, productive lives for our youngest citizens.”

Started in 1992, McCormick’s Education Program seeks to build a system of quality early education in Illinois by investing in policy and programs that provide for all the children of Illinois and especially help those most disadvantaged, from birth to age 8. Using all of the Foundation’s tools – grant-making, thought leadership, and convening power – the Program focuses on developing quality leaders and teachers, supports advocacy work and policy development state-wide, and plays a national leadership role in the development and dissemination of best practices.

Grumman joins the McCormick Foundation from the Urban Education Institute at the University of Chicago where she served as Director of Policy & Strategic Communications since 2013. While there, she headed strategic marketing and policy efforts and leveraged local and national partnerships as channels for UEI knowledge. Prior to that role, Grumman spent five years with the Ounce of Prevention Fund as the Founding Executive Director of the First Five Years Fund, spearheading the start-up of an influential campaign designed to secure greater federal investments in high quality early education.

With a journalism career spanning more than 20 years, Grumman held reporting duties with the *News & Observer* (Raleigh) and the *Chicago Tribune*, where in 2003 she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Editorial Writing for her editorials on capital punishment.

“The McCormick Foundation has long held an important leadership role in Illinois and beyond in driving strategies that lead ultimately to better outcomes for young children,” Grumman said.

“We have more evidence than ever about what works in education, and the role quality early education plays in lifetime outcomes. I look forward to acting on that evidence, and building upon the strong foundation McCormick already has set, to ensure all children receive the support they need to be successful in life.”

Grumman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy Studies from Duke University and a Master of Public Policy degree from the Kennedy School at Harvard University.

**About the Robert R. McCormick Foundation**

The Robert R. McCormick Foundation is committed to fostering communities of educated, informed, and engaged citizens. Through philanthropic grant-making, Cantigny Park, Museums, and Cantigny Golf, the Foundation works to make life better in our communities. The Foundation was established in 1955 upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. The McCormick Foundation is one of the nation's largest foundations, with more than \$1.5 billion in assets. Find out more at [www.mccormickfoundation.org](http://www.mccormickfoundation.org), follow us on Twitter (@McCormick\_Fdn) and like us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/mccormickfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/mccormickfoundation)).

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