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Charlotte, North Carolina's The Gambrell Foundation Names New President, Brian Collier
Executive Vice President at Foundation For The Carolinas will join The Gambrell Foundation in December, and Sally Gambrell Bridgford will become Chief Executive Officer.

TODAY — The Gambrell Foundation is pleased to announce that Brian Collier will be joining the organization as its new president effective December 2022. Collier, who has served as an advisor to The Gambrell Foundation over the years, will help further define and execute the foundation's grant-making strategy and deepen existing work on economic opportunity and social capital in Charlotte, North Carolina. In addition to Collier's move to the foundation, Sally Gambrell Bridgford has been named chief executive officer. Hannah Rankin, longtime executive director, will return her focus to expanding the Gambrell family office.

"Brian and I have worked together on many projects over the years, all focused on fostering economic opportunity, upward mobility and social capital. This truly felt like the perfect time and opportunity to go deeper on these issues and build on our existing partnership," Gambrell Bridgford said. "Brian's commitment to this community is unwavering, and I am excited to expand on our work together in bigger and bolder ways that will bring real benefit back to the community we both care so deeply about. In addition, I'm excited about Hannah's return to our family office and thank her for her many contributions to advancing the foundation's impact. We are excited to have Hannah's expertise and contributions as chief operating officer of Belk Gambrell Enterprises."

Collier comes to The Gambrell Foundation following an almost 16-year tenure at Foundation For The Carolinas (FFTC), where he served as executive vice president. Since his early days at FFTC and in partnership with numerous community organizations, Collier helped research, design and lead implementation of the organization's civic initiatives, including the creation of The Robinson Center for Civic Leadership, Project LIFT, the Critical Need Fund, the Catalyst Fund, THRIVE Fund for the Arts, the Carolina Thread Trail, Discovery Place Kids-Rockingham, the Char-Meck COVID-19 Response Fund, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Economic Opportunity Task Force, Leading on Opportunity and many more. In addition, he oversaw all of FFTC's competitive grants programs across the 13-county footprint. Prior to FFTC, Collier served in a senior executive role at KaBOOM! in Washington, and was the founding executive director of Victory Junction, a camp for chronically ill children co-founded by actor Paul Newman and NASCAR legends Kyle and Richard Petty. Collier started his career in Orlando, Florida, as a trial attorney.

"I love this community, and I'm honored to build on the incredible work and momentum toward economic opportunity and belonging for everyone in our city and county," said Collier. "The Gambrell Foundation presents an amazing opportunity for me to continue this effort and also explore innovative ways for all our young people to feel valued, respected and loved. I've been a longtime admirer of The Gambrell Foundation's approach and their deep commitment to the work. Now is the right time to amplify this work for our community in a new way, and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to work alongside Sally to make it a reality."

To date, The Gambrell Foundation and Collier's collaborations at FFTC have spurred highly impactful

projects. That work includes a partnership with Raj Chetty's Opportunity Insights, which is leading to long-term solutions and better public policy that fundamentally change the way we address affordable housing, family stability and all of the factors that contribute to economic mobility; building economic mobility research capacity at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; and spurring cutting-edge research on social capital with the Brookings Institute.

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