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**GENELLE TAYLOR KUMPE NAMED CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
OF THE FRESNO BUSINESS COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY MANUFACTURING ALLIANCE**

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA...September 5, 2018...The Board of Directors of the Fresno Business Council (FBC) and the San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance (SJVMA), are pleased to jointly announce Genelle Taylor Kumpe as the FBC's first Chief Operating Officer and the SJVMA's first Executive Director effective September 1, 2018. Kumpe can be reached at genelle@sjvma.org.

The Fresno Business Council led by Chief Executive Officer Deborah Nankivell was formed in 1993 to address chronic economic and social issues with the intent to build a great community and is a civic group made up of 275 business leaders and partner organizations. The San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance was formed in 2016 as an industry lead partnership between manufacturers, education and government. It is now part of an emerging network that has become a statewide movement in California to strengthen the workforce pipeline by collaborating with education partners and ensuring students are supported in discovering a path that inspires them. In 2016, the SJVMA incorporated daily operations under the Fresno Business Council under the leadership of Mike Betts, Founding Chairman of the SJVMA Board and CEO of the Betts Company who will continue in this role going forward.

"After serving the Fresno Business Council for over a quarter-century, and working alongside business leaders to transform our community, I could not be more excited about Genelle's new executive appointments. She served during our first major initiative launched in 2000 and has remained a trusted colleague to both the Fresno Business Council and myself for many years. Her skills and collective experience is a perfect match for the kind of leader we need to accelerate at scale in both organizations," stated Deborah Nankivell, CEO of the Fresno Business Council.

Kumpe brings extensive experience in innovation, entrepreneurship, human development and business to her new executive roles with the FBC and the SJVMA. Her most recent position at Fresno City College teaching life and employability skills as part of the California Strong Workforce Initiative brings the expertise needed to address the most pressing concern of employers - life skills, soft skills and professional skills. For three years Kumpe served as Executive Director of the Marjaree Mason Center, Fresno County's only dedicated provider of shelter and support services for victims of domestic violence and their families.

From 1999 to 2013, Kumpe worked in entrepreneurship education at Fresno State with the last ten of those years as the Associate Director for the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, helping to take it from a concept to a nationally recognized platform to create

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businesses and change lives. A Fresno State graduate, Kumpe holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with an option in Management and Organizational Behavior. She has been a business owner; is a graduate of Leadership Fresno; has served as a Valley Children's Hospital Guild member for many years; and is on the leadership committee for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, where she was named 2018 Woman of the Year.

"As a proud and long-time Valley resident, I have been privileged to witness the impact of good people giving back to the community and silos being broken-down in the spirit of collaboration. Together, we are stronger, and it is in this spirit that I look forward to expanding the essential work that has been accomplished thus far, as I begin my work as the Chief Operating Officer of the Fresno Business Council and the Executive Director of the San Joaquin Manufacturing Alliance," stated Genelle Taylor Kumpe. "I am honored to work alongside the SJVMA Board and membership comprised of successful business- and civic-minded individuals who are dedicated to assisting the SJVMA to succeed in the years ahead."

The SJVMA has grown rapidly with 600 members from throughout the Valley who are comprised of all sectors. This growth is evidenced by an increased recognition of the importance manufacturing and middle-class jobs play in inspiring a vibrant economy. Nationally, public leaders are focused on creating a business climate to develop core industries that support a broad range of suppliers and service providers who generate the resources needed for government services and the nonprofit sector. The SJVMA is laser-focused on promoting business excellence, developing a strong workforce and a supportive business environment.

"Business leaders in all sectors have realized that old models of education do not prepare students and adults seeking to advance their skills for our current and future workplace. Education and government must embrace the adaptive, innovative and values-based shift the private sector has been advancing in order to build a strong workforce and strong communities," explained Mike Betts, Founding Chairman of the SJVMA, Executive Committee Member of the Fresno Business Council and CEO of the Betts Company. "On behalf of the SJVMA Board, we are confident that Genelle's passion for manufacturing and our community will help equip our labor force with the necessary skills to create a quality workforce unmatched throughout our great nation."

For more information on the Fresno Business Council and to become a member, visit www.fresnobc.org. For more information on the San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance and to become a member, visit www.sjvma.org.

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