

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TALARIS RESEARCH INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES
TERRENCE MEERSMAN AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Seattle, WA. (April 7, 2003) – Talaris Research Institute, a Seattle-based non-profit research institute focusing on advancing knowledge of early brain development, announced today the appointment of Terrence Meersman as Executive Director. He will assume this role beginning in June.

Meersman comes to Talaris as a recognized national leader in private foundation management. He most recently served as Executive Vice President and Director of Programs for the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, which is the largest foundation in Arizona supporting early childhood, youth, elderly and arts programs. Prior to his work in Arizona, Meersman served as Senior Program Officer and Director of Finance and Administration for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation during its start-up years. He also served as Executive Vice President of Save the Children and Venture Fund Program Officer for The Pew Charitable Trusts.

“Talaris is translating some of the treasures of research for parents, who can use this information as we raise our children” says Jolene McCaw, Talaris co-chair of the Board of Directors. “Terry’s skill as a connector of people, ideas and resources will help broaden our reach to parents, childcare providers, and educators who nurture children.”

“I can think of no greater opportunity to make a difference in our world than to support children in their earliest years” said new Talaris Executive Director Terry Meersman. “Supporting parents and professionals with practical information and better channels of communication can radically change the way children are raised. As a father myself, I can see such great potential.”

“We are delighted that Terry Meersman will also serve as Director of Early Care and Education for the Apex Foundation” adds Bruce McCaw, Talaris co-chair of the Board of Directors.

Meersman holds a Master's Degree in Public and Private Management from Yale University, a Master's Degree in Humanities from the University of Chicago, and a Bachelor's Degree in English from University of Santa Clara.

About Talaris Research Institute

Talaris Research Institute, www.talaris.org, is a non-profit institute for advanced study based in Seattle. Talaris' mission is to advance knowledge of early brain development for all who nurture children. Dedicated to discovering how children think, feel and learn, Talaris translates the science of learning into tools and information for parents, caregivers, childcare providers, educators, healthcare providers, and the corporate community. Talaris Research Institute was founded by Bruce and Jolene McCaw and is funded by the Apex Foundation, Bruce and Jolene McCaw's family Foundation.

If you would like to receive Talaris Research Spotlights via email please send an email reply to cp@talaris.org. Some previous spotlight topics have included: "Not Such Sweet Dreams", an examination of nightmares and night terrors; "Are you Okay Daddy?" a study of empathy; "Baby See, Baby Do!" a look at imitative behavior and memory; "Do You Remember When..." a discussion of early memories.

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