



Eating Disorders Coalition Welcomes New Leadership for 2023-2025 Term

WASHINGTON D.C. (January 10, 2023)- The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, & Action (EDC) Board of Directors welcomes new executive leadership to guide the organization for the next two years. Christine Peat, Ph.D., has been elected to serve as Board President and Laura Donahue has been elected to serve as Board Vice President.



Christine Peat is the Director of the [National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders \(NCEED\)](#), the nation’s first and only federally funded technical assistance center dedicated to eating disorders. She completed her undergraduate training in psychology at the University of Arizona and earned her master’s degree and doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of North Dakota. Her internship was in behavioral medicine at West Virginia University, after which she went on to complete her postdoctoral fellowship in eating disorders research at the University of North Carolina.

As the Director of NCEED, Dr. Peat is focused on broadly disseminating education and training on eating disorders to healthcare providers across a variety of disciplines including primary care, generalist mental health providers, and community stakeholders. Dr. Peat is also a licensed psychologist in North Carolina and treats eating disorders across the spectrum.

“I’m both humbled and thrilled to play a role in the leadership of this great organization,” **said incoming EDC Board President, Christine Peat, Ph.D.** “My previous experiences with the EDC have underscored the importance of teamwork, particularly when it comes to large-scale changes that have the potential to impact the lives of those with eating disorders. I’m eager to continue to build upon the foundation of work already developed by the EDC and to make eating disorders a public health priority.”



Laura Donahue is the Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility at CarMax. In 2014, Laura’s 15-year-old daughter was hospitalized to treat her anorexia nervosa. Having emerged from this experience with her daughter in recovery, Laura is passionate about building awareness, destigmatization, and support for individuals and their families struggling with eating disorders. Her experience with other parents and families and their challenges in finding a path to recovery led her to participate with the EDC during annual advocacy days, action alerts, and to work to build awareness amongst community organizations and school counselors.

Laura is also member of [WithAll's](#) Board of Directors, a non-profit organization working to reduce the risk of eating disorders through upstream prevention and help people break through practical barriers in pursuing recovery. Laura and her family founded the Donahue Family Foundation, which has focused on eating disorder support, mental health and addiction support, student food insecurity, and support for indigenous communities. Laura received her BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“I’m honored to have an opportunity to help lead this amazing organization of skilled and passionate people who are all focused on creating positive change for the millions of people with eating disorders,” **said incoming EDC Vice President, Laura Donahue.**

The 2023-2025 executive committee also includes Millie Plotkin, MLS, Director for Online and Social Media for [Academy for Eating Disorders](#) and creator of the [Eating Disorders Information Gateway](#), serving as Secretary; Johanna Kandel, Founder and CEO of the [National Alliance for Eating Disorders](#), serving as Treasurer (also former EDC President); and Chase Bannister, MDIV, MSW, LCSW, CEDS, Founder of [Veritas Collaborative](#) and Senior Vice President for Community Engagement of [Accanto Health](#), the parent company of Veritas Collaborative and [The Emily Program](#), serving as immediate past president.

Additionally, the EDC welcomes four new board members: Vanessa Menaged, Chief Marketing and Admissions Officer for [The Renfrew Center](#); Denise Hamburger, JD, Founder and Executive Director of [BEREAL USA](#); Dori Bowling, LCSW, Vice President of Quality Assurance for [Eating Recovery Center](#); and Dori Steinberg, Ph.D., RD, Vice President of Research for [Equip Health](#).

The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) is a Washington, D.C. based, federal advocacy organization comprised of advocacy organizations, academics, treatment providers, family/loved ones of children with eating disorders, and people experiencing eating disorders nationwide. The EDC advances the recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority throughout the United States. Additional resources can be found at eatingdisorderscoalition.org.

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