



Contact: Stefanie Favia
847-236-0150
stefanie@selectedtrust.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Selected Educational Trust Announces New Appointments to the Board of Trustees

LINCOLNSHIRE, IL — October 30, 2023 — Selected Independent Funeral Homes Educational Trust is pleased to announce the appointment of four new members to its Board of Trustees.

Robert Justen, Owner and Funeral Director, Justen Funeral Home & Crematory, McHenry, IL is a 5th generation funeral care provider, who spent his childhood around the funeral home and became licensed in 2016. Justen worked with the Trust to establish the Mark L. Justen Memorial Scholarship, which has awarded a recipient annually since 2021.

Leigh Klemencic is the Director, Preneed with Physicians Mutual, Omaha, NE. Klemencic steps into the second year of a 3-year term started by a colleague last year. Physicians Mutual has been a steadfast supporter of the Trust for many years and has been the sponsor of the Ambassador of the Year Awards program since its inception in 2021.

JimmiAnne Lowe is the Corporate Secretary and a Funeral Director/Embalmer with Lowe Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc., Burlington, NC. Lowe is a licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer who has been with Lowe Funeral Home since 2016.

Jason Winters is a Funeral Director, Embalmer, & Cremation Counselor with McClendon-Winters Funeral Home, Okmulgee, OK. Winters has been with the firm since 1997 and is active in his community, serving countless organizations including the Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce, Okmulgee Memorial Hospital and Okmulgee Medical Foundation, the Tulsa Area United Way, and the Funeral Service Department of the University of Central Oklahoma.

Trustees serve 3-year terms and work to guide the activities of the Trust. “We are honored to welcome all four of these individuals to our Board during an important time in the Trust’s continued evolution,” said Stefanie Favia, Senior Director of the Trust. “The forward-thinking perspectives and many skills and talents of these professionals will be instrumental in 2023 and beyond as we continue to hone and execute on our vision of ensuring lifelong learning in independent funeral service.”

For more information about the Selected Educational Trust, visit www.selectedtrust.org or contact Stefanie Favia, Senior Director of Development, at stefanie@selectedtrust.org.

###

About the Selected Educational Trust

The mission of the [Selected Educational Trust](http://www.selectedtrust.org) (www.selectedtrust.org) is to provide the best educational opportunities for the advancement and support of all who work within the independent funeral service profession. To fulfill this mission, the Trust provides programs which offer scholarships to mortuary science students and funeral service professionals, education programs serving to bridge the gap between school and on-the-job training through its [Institute for Exceptional Funeral Service](http://www.funeral-institute.org) (www.funeral-institute.org) and networking and employment opportunities through its *Workforce Development Centers*.



Pictured left to right: Robert Justen, Leigh Klemencic, JimmiAnne Lowe, and Jason Winters.