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STATE OF OHIO  
**Executive Department**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*Columbus*

I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby appoint Cara Dingus Brook, Republican, from Logan, Hocking County, Ohio, as a Member of the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority for a new term beginning July 1, 2021 and ending at the close of business June 30, 2029, replacing Cara Dingus Brook, whose term expired.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed, at Columbus, this 4th day of June in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty One.

*Mike DeWine*

Mike DeWine  
Governor

**Cara Dingus Brook  
President and CEO  
Foundation for Appalachian Ohio**

Growing up in Appalachia, Cara often recognized the need for more resources and support. When she became the President and CEO of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio in 2007, Cara understood the role the Foundation could play in bringing more opportunities to the people of Appalachian Ohio. Under her leadership, the Foundation's small but mighty team has:

- Grown its annual grantmaking more than sixteen-fold, creating opportunities and removing barriers in the areas of Health & Human Services, Education, Arts & Culture, Environmental Stewardship and Community & Economic Development;
- Inspired substantial giving, growing the Foundation's assets from less than \$5 million to \$33 million today, with an additional \$40 million in documented planned gift receivables;
- Broken records by developing and launching the world's first-ever foundation "IPO" – an *Initial Philanthropic Offering*, which has resulted in tremendous and widespread ownership in the Foundation's mission;
- Partnered with ten local communities to establish their own community foundations, providing vital and sustainable sources of funding for local innovations and opportunities;
- Led the incubation of needed organizations for the region – the Ohio Appalachian Business Council (OABC), a business roundtable advancing Appalachian Ohio's prosperity, which in turn became the Appalachian Partnership and Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth, 501(c)(3) regional economic development organizations working to increase jobs and new capital investment in the region;
- Galvanized strategic partnerships with the private and public sector, academia and nonprofit community to bring proven programs to scale across Appalachian Ohio; most recently in the areas of youth-led substance use disorder prevention and literacy;
- Worked through a variety of targeted and strategic public awareness and marketing campaigns to encourage a culture of success within the region, most notably with FAO's award-winning *I'm a Child of Appalachia* ® campaign; and
- Served the region as a convener, bridge-builder and source of support to share information, encourage community and nonprofit leaders and enable the region's communities to give voice to issues of common concern.

Before joining the Foundation, Cara served as the Southeast Ohio District Representative for United States Senator George V. Voinovich. Prior to that, she was the manager of Appalachian Ohio Giving, a multi-sector partnership promoting philanthropy as a community and economic development tool.

Ohio University, Cara's alma mater where she received a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in English, has recognized Cara's commitment to and accomplishments in Appalachian Ohio and philanthropy repeatedly. Cara received the Appalachian New Economy Partnership Award for Regional Economic Development from the Voinovich School for Leadership and Public Affairs in 2010 and the Young Alumni "Spirit"

Award from Ohio University's College of Arts and Sciences in 2011, recognizing her public service contributions. In 2018, Cara was honored by the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs' prestigious "State Government Alumnus Award," which came with an appointment to the Public Affairs Advisory Committee of Ohio University.

In 2013, Cara received Philanthropy Ohio's Emerging Philanthropist Award. Cara is a graduate of the Jo Ann Davidson Leadership Institute, an Ohio-based organization preparing women to lead in public service. She has also studied with the Center for Creative Leadership.

In 2018, Cara accepted a Presidential appointment to serve on the Department of Treasury's Community Development Advisory Board, helping guide federal investments intended to advance community and economic development. In 2012, Cara received a gubernatorial appointment to the Ohio Commodores, a statewide association teaming with the Governor of Ohio to advance economic development, an association to which she still belongs. Cara has provided leadership to a number of legislative and advocacy task forces and when, merited, testimony to the Ohio General Assembly on issues of importance to Appalachian Ohio.

Cara's global experience includes representing the United States through the Swiss American Foundation's Young Leaders program, a highly selective program that annually sponsors twenty-five high potential leaders in industry, media, government and nonprofits from each country for a week of cultural exchange, with the goal of keeping strong bonds between the two nations. Cara also served on The Global Fund for Community Foundation's delegation to Kenya, supported by the Ford Foundation. Most recently Cara has taken to writing about rural philanthropy. Her first article "*Playing the Long Game: How a scrappy community foundation set out to raise \$100 million*" was published by *Philanthropy* magazine in fall 2018. Her second article is due out in April.

After surviving cancer twice – once at age twenty-one (Ewings Sarcoma) and again at age thirty-five (triple negative breast cancer), Cara has become an active volunteer for The Ohio State University's James Cancer Center and Komen Foundation. In 2018, Cara and her family served as the Honorary Co-Chairs of the Southeast Ohio Race for the Cure, working to build awareness of the health disparities in Appalachian Ohio and to shine light on the work of the Southeast Ohio Breast Initiative to bridge these divides. Since Cara was diagnosed with breast cancer only two months after giving birth to her son, she is especially sensitive to encouraging younger women to do their own self-exams.

Cara actively teams with breast cancer researchers at the James, where she provides the patient perspective on research and potential new developments. Cara resides in Logan, Ohio, with her husband (Dominick), their two-year old son (Hugh Oliver) and the family pet (a poodle named Yogi). They are members of First Presbyterian Church and enjoy hiking, traveling and reading.

## GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

**Appointment Date:** 7/1/2021

**Name of Appointee:** Cara Dingus Brook  
**Address:** 14885 Mercia Lane  
Logan, OH 43138  
Hocking County  
(H) –  
(W) – 7407531111  
(M) – 7405904483  
(E) – cbrook@ffao.org

**Name of Commission:** Ohio Air Quality Development Authority  
Christina O'Keeffe, Executive Director  
(614) 387-3063  
(614) 466-6825  
50 West Broad St., Suite 1118  
Columbus, OH 43138  
(614) 224-3383

**Term Begins:** 7/1/2021  
**Term Ends:** 6/30/2029  
**Party Affiliation:** Republican  
**Senate Confirmation:** Appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate  
**Financial Disclosure:** Public disclosure required  
**Vice:** Cara Dingus Brook