

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Mariana Parks Joins the Slade Gorton International Policy Center at The National Bureau of Asian Research**

(SEATTLE, WA -- July 11, 2016) Effective July 5, 2016, Mariana Parks became President of the Slade Gorton International Policy Center at The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) in Seattle, Washington. As president, Ms. Parks will direct the long-term strategic planning, development, and programs of the Center, with a focus on expanding the Global Leaders Fellows and Mentorship Program to train our next generation of leaders in U.S. Senator Slade Gorton's principled and bipartisan approach to solving complex policy issues.

The Center was established in January 2010 to honor the living legacy of Senator Gorton's more than six decades of public service to Washington State and the nation. Ms. Parks succeeds Creigh H. Agnew who, having served as president for the Gorton Center's first six years, will now become president emeritus. Ms. Agnew will be relocating to Washington, D.C., where she will remain active with the Gorton Center through NBR's D.C. office.

Ms. Parks is a strategic communications specialist, providing a broad range of services in the area of policy affairs to corporate, political, and nonprofit clients. Her background includes working for Microsoft's Government Affairs Division. She has also served as vice president at the Washington Institute for Policy Studies (now the Washington Policy Center), district director for Congressman Dave Reichert, deputy state director and speechwriter for Senator Gorton during his second U.S. Senate term, and curriculum specialist for computers at the University of Washington Extension. She serves or has served on several boards, including the Gorton Center Advisory Council at NBR since its founding,

TVW, Invintus Corporation, Discovery Institute, Seattle CityClub, Leadership Tomorrow, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, the Gorton Legacy Group, and the Roanoke Conference.

"We are thrilled to have Mariana on board to lead the Slade Gorton International Policy Center," stated NBR President Richard Ellings. "She has been deeply involved with the Center and NBR for years and brings a broad range of experience in both the public and private sectors to this role. Mariana is a proven leader who will help us build on—and honor—Senator Gorton's extraordinary career of public service, as well as developing the next generation of leaders."

Senator Gorton said, "I am delighted to have Mariana join the Gorton Center as president. She has been a trusted friend and advisor for decades. This is a 'win-win' with Creigh moving to the president emeritus role in D.C. and Mariana taking over leadership of Gorton Center programs. I could not be more pleased."

"It has been an honor to serve as president for the past six years," said Ms. Agnew. "Mariana is the perfect person to provide leadership to the Gorton Center and to carry on Slade's legacy of public service. I look forward to supporting her in any way that I can."

Upon her appointment as the Gorton Center's new president, Ms. Parks said, "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to once again join Senator Gorton and the high-caliber people invariably drawn to work with him. Rich Ellings and Creigh Agnew are testaments to that, and I look forward to building on their outstanding work at the Gorton Center to honor the man we all hold in the greatest esteem."

The Gorton Center is headquartered in NBR's George F. Russell Jr. Hall, located directly across the street from the University of Washington. Senator Gorton maintains his office in the Gorton Center and, in addition to advising its work, provides extensive one-on-one time with students in the Global Leaders Program.

*Founded in 1989 with a major grant from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, NBR is an independent, nonpartisan research institution committed to informing and strengthening policy. NBR also helps train the next generation of scholars who concentrate on Asia. For more information, visit [www.nbr.org](http://www.nbr.org).*

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