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**JOHN VASCONCELLOS TO SERVE AS NEW PRESIDENT OF
THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS**

NEW BEDFORD, MA - - The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts is pleased to announce that New Bedford native John Vasconcellos will serve as the next president of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts beginning August 1, 2016.

John is a visionary collaborator and change leader who has extensive not-for-profit and fundraising experience and was chosen from a field of over 80 applicants. Through the generosity of the Carney Family Foundation, the Search Committee had the expert guidance of Janet Atkins of Ridgeway Philanthropy. The committee sorted and ranked the applicants on intellectual leadership, vision, financial acumen and fundraising as well as management experience.

Most recently, John served as Senior Regional Director for the Southeast and Boston regions of The Trustees of Reservations. Other experience includes Managing Director of Development and Marketing for the Gay Men's Health Crisis, Vice President of Development and Communications at the Buzzards Bay Coalition and Director of Development for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

"The Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts is grateful to the Search Committee for selecting such an outstanding candidate," said Board Chairman Seth Garfield. "We are looking forward to working with John and taking advantage of his visionary energy and extensive experience."

"The opportunity to work with the Board to lead the Community Foundation into its next twenty years is exciting, vital and humbling," Mr. Vasconcellos stated. "There is such great work occurring in our region in the realms of the arts and culture, education, environment, social services, health and community revitalization, and I look forward to our Community Foundation expanding its role as a key player in moving those initiatives forward. I am honored to be asked to lead this important effort."

About the Community Foundation

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts is a tax-exempt public charity founded in 1995 to improve the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts by facilitating, advising, convening and/or responding to critical community issues. Since 2005, CFSEMA has distributed more than \$20 million in grants and scholarships from 225 funds to support youth programs, expand economic opportunities, increase educational attainment, promote sustainability, invest in the creative economy and, through the Women's Fund, improve the economic status of women and girls. For more information, visit www.cfsema.org.