



The AJAA Board is excited to announce the hiring of Nicole Abernathy as its next Executive Director. Nicole, a graduate of Indiana University, joins AJAA after more than a decade of executive experience as the CEO of Aerodyn Engineering, an aerospace Engineering Company. At Aerodyn, she led the company through tremendous growth increasing annual revenue from \$5M in 2007 to \$30M in 2018. Under Nicole's leadership she transformed Aerodyn from a local business with [12] employees to an international corporation with more than [115] employees in [3] countries.

"The search committee knew when it began its search that our organization and its members needed first and foremost someone with senior level management experience, a strong background in finance, a strategic vision, and a passion for developing youth. We found all that and more in Nicole." - John McDavid, Board chair.

In addition to Nicole's professional experience, she is also the founder of The Angry Pancreas Foundation (APF). APF is a foundation focused on patient advocacy and emotional support for those suffering with chronic illness. She spends most of her time in the foundation speaking with physicians and patients to allow for the emotional wellbeing of a patient to be a forefront and aid in their medical recovery.

Nicole has been involved in AJAA for 8 years as a parent supporting her son who has played for several years, and her husband who has coached. Her passion for youth sports, and what it can offer children and a community, led her to volunteer and serve on the AJAA Board for the past two years. It is that same passion she is bringing with her in her role as Executive Director, which combined with her strong executive leadership background will guide AJAA in the coming years.

The Board interviewed many strong candidates, but Nicole stood out for her leadership, finance, and operational experience as well as her emphasis on customer service, quality programming and fiscal responsibility. Nicole is committed to the youth and families within the community and is forgoing the benefits of working in the for-profit-world. Please join us in welcoming Nicole in her new role with the AJAA family.

"I am very excited to join an organization with such strong potential and wonderful ties within our community. I look forward to working with our volunteers to help improve and build on the already great AJAA programs we have in place." – Nicole Abernathy

Nicole is slated to begin mid-April.

Did You Know? AJAA, a not-for-profit, is the largest youth sports organization in Hendricks County. Established in 1963, it provides 21 different sports programs to more than 4,200 kids between the ages of 4-18. AJAA's mission is to provide outstanding opportunities for Avon community youth to develop physically while encouraging growth in teamwork, effort, sportsmanship and character by offering a diverse and high-quality athletic programming and instruction through a single organization.



Nicole Abernathy