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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THREE BEDFORD COUNTY RESIDENTS APPOINTED TO SAMA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art is pleased to announce the additions of Mari-Pat Beene, Gerald Hawk and Dean Lemley, all of Bedford, to its Board of Trustees.

Beene is owner/designer for Beene Creative Design in Bedford, which offers a variety of graphic design and fine art services. She has a bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and has also studied at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. Beene is a board member and designer for Downtown Bedford Incorporated and also serves on the board of Bedford Heritage Trust. She has worked on a variety of art sculptures with teachers and pupils at Bedford Elementary School and is Past-President of Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor and was a board member of Bedford County Chamber Foundation.

Hawk is owner of Bedford Fine Art Gallery. A fine art collector for more than thirty years, Hawk started Bedford Fine Art Gallery as a start-up business less than five years ago. Since that time, the gallery has been featured in Allegheny Magazine, Johnstown Magazine and Pittsburgh Quarterly and has registered sales totaling nearly \$600,000. Hawk is a graduate of University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and is Vice President of Heritage Trust in Bedford.

A successful real estate agent and business owner, Lemley has been a large part of the Bedford County community for more than 45 years. He has served on Bedford Borough Council for the past 22 years, including two terms as President, and has worked with Downtown Bedford, Inc. for six years. He has been an active board member of Bedford Humane Society for more than 10 years and will be running for Mayor of Bedford in 2018.

“We are pleased that Mari-Pat Beene, Jerry Hawk and Dean Lemley have joined our leadership team,” said SAMA Executive Director G. Gary Moyer. “Fellow board members and the Museum staff look forward to working with them to address the challenges we face and to capitalize on the opportunities that are ahead. Beene, Hawk and Lemley bring a combination of business savvy, community involvement and an

interest in the arts that will serve them well as trustees. We are fortunate to have talented individuals like Mari-Pat Beene, Jerry Hawk and Dean Lemley leading the Museum and helping us to establish a legacy for the people of this region.”