

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

## **9NEWS NAMES DIRECTOR OF CONTENT AND NEWS CONTENT DIRECTOR**

Denver, CO – 9NEWS announced today that Eric Valadez has been appointed to the newly created role of director of content and that Linda Kotsaftis has been promoted to news content director. Valadez and Kotsaftis bring over 40 years of combined experience in broadcast journalism and innovation to their new roles. These roles are a part of 9NEWS' strategy to transform local journalism in the digital age.

"I'm delighted to have Eric and Linda step into these leadership roles," said Steve Carter, president and general manager, 9NEWS. "Both are award-winning journalists with a passion to serve the greater good of Colorado. Each has an outstanding record of success in transforming newsroom culture to embrace innovation and data-driven decision making to deliver meaningful content, quality storytelling and investigations that bring real change."

As director of content, Valadez will oversee the vision, hiring and strategy for all 9NEWS editorial coverage and the distribution of news across all content platforms. Valadez joins KUSA after serving as executive news director leading content strategy for 22 TEGNA stations in medium and small markets. In this role, he also managed coverage of breaking news and special events of national interest. Previously, Valadez was assistant news director at WFAA-TV in Dallas, TX where he led editorial development and recruited and managed a newsroom staff of 120 people.

"There isn't a newsroom in this country that has a more innovative spirit and commitment to outstanding journalism than 9NEWS," said Valadez. "I'm thrilled for this opportunity to work with a team of remarkable storytellers dedicated to finding new ways to connect with our audience, while truly making Colorado a better place."



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Kotsaftis brings two decades of experience at 9NEWS to her new role of news content director, where she will lead day-to-day editorial coverage, overseeing content creation, investigative journalism, and distribution across multiple platforms, including digital and social. She will report to Valadez. Kotsaftis has played an instrumental role in the station's innovation efforts, including the launch of "Next with Kyle Clark," which is now the number-one rated news program in Denver.

"There's no better time to be a local journalist," said Kotsaftis. "Now is the time to think big and be bold in order to deliver news and information to our audiences wherever they want it."

#### **About TEGNA**

TEGNA Inc. (NYSE: TGNA) is an innovative media company that serves the greater good of our communities. With 47 television stations and two radio stations in 39 markets, TEGNA delivers relevant content and information to consumers across platforms. It is the largest owner of top 4 affiliates in the top 25 markets, reaching approximately one-third of all television households nationwide. Each month, TEGNA reaches 50 million adults on-air and approximately 30 million across its digital platforms. TEGNA has been consistently honored with the industry's top awards, including Edward R. Murrow, George Polk, Alfred I. DuPont and Emmy Awards. TEGNA delivers results for advertisers through unparalleled and innovative solutions including OTT local advertising network [Premion](#), centralized marketing resource Hatch, and [G/O Digital](#), a one-stop shop for local businesses to connect with consumers through digital marketing. Across platforms, TEGNA tells empowering stories, conducts impactful investigations and delivers innovative marketing solutions. For more information, visit [www.TEGNA.com](http://www.TEGNA.com).

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**For media inquiries, contact:**

Christy Moreno  
9NEWS News Director  
303.871.1855

**For sales inquiries, contact:**

Steve Carter  
9NEWS President and General Manager  
303.871.1885