

Howard C. O'Brien Appointed Inaugural Chairman of the American Heart Association's National Emerging Leaders Council

Cleveland, OH – December 20, 2024 – Howard C. O'Brien has been appointed by the American Heart Association (AHA) as the Inaugural Chairman of its National Emerging Leaders Council and as a new member of the AHA Midwest Region Board of Directors.

Howard, a dynamic professional with a deep commitment to service, leadership, and community engagement, currently serves as an Associate at Howard & O'Brien Executive Search, where he focuses on business development and candidate recruitment for executive search assignments. Following five years of active-duty service at Fort Cavazos, Texas (formerly Fort Hood) with the 3d Cavalry Regiment, Howard is currently a Captain in the U.S. Army, serving as a Battalion Maintenance Officer and Combatives Instructor in the Ohio Army National Guard, with extensive leadership experience across logistics, operations, and personnel development. He is expected to take command of a transportation company in July 2025.

Howard's appointment to chair the National Emerging Leaders Council, a newly formed group of early-career professionals, reflects the AHA's commitment to developing future leaders who will shape the organization's strategies in science, medicine, advocacy, and community impact. The Council serves as an incubator of innovation and a sounding board for AHA initiatives targeting youth and young adults. The AHA's mission is to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. For nearly a century, the AHA has been dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke through research, education, and community engagement.

In addition to the AHA, Howard is a licensed realtor, and the founder of a residential real estate investment firm. Howard is a 2015 graduate of University School in Hunting Valley, Ohio, and earned his Bachelor's degree in Politics and International Affairs from Furman University in 2019, where he also minored in Military Science.

"It's a true honor to serve as the first Chair of the Emerging Leaders Council," said Howard. "The American Heart Association has been a part of my life for nearly a decade, and I look forward to helping inspire and empower young professionals across the country to support our vital mission."

About Howard & O'Brien Executive Search

Howard & O'Brien Executive Search, located in Cleveland, Ohio, is a boutique executive search firm with national reach. Founded in 2002, Howard & O'Brien provides an unmatched breadth of experience across industries, functions, and business structures. Combining the deep research and resources of a global search firm with the personal service and insight of a boutique search firm, Howard & O'Brien takes a customized approach to every search to identify leaders who are a perfect fit for their clients.

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