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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Morven Park Welcomes New Executive Director

LEESBURG, VA –The Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees is pleased to announce Sheryl Williams as the organization's new Executive Director. After a review of applicants, Williams was approved by unanimous decision at the Board of Trustees meeting on Dec. 4, 2017. Trustees of the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation oversee the operation of Morven Park.

Williams joined Morven Park in 2007. She has served as Chief Operating Officer for the past five years, providing leadership on equestrian, athletic and administrative functions, and has served as Interim Executive Director of the organization since September 2017. She is passionate about equestrian sport and has been instrumental in the \$4M revitalization of the Morven Park International Equestrian Center since the project's inception four years ago.

"Sheryl brings a solid understanding of the organization's fiscal responsibilities, understands the Board's vision for moving Morven Park's programs forward, and has a great rapport with the staff. The Board is excited to welcome her in this new position," said Board of Trustees President Clark Davis.

Prior to her tenure at Morven Park, Williams worked in the private sector for the Hewlett Packard Company where she held various positions in the business and technical support organizations and honed her passion for establishing organizational efficiencies and delivering outstanding customer service. She and her husband have lived in Loudoun County for 17 years. Williams is also known in the equestrian community for helming the Rubicon Farm Horse Trials that ran for eight years in Lucketts, Va.

"Morven Park's grounds and historic mansion have long been a special treasure in Loudoun County," Williams said. "Whether hiking the trails, attending a horse show or athletic event, participating in a civics program, or getting married here, each visitor has their own amazing memory of the Park. It is an honor to be a part of preserving it for future generations."

In addition to welcoming a new Executive Director, Morven Park is celebrating its 50th anniversary of opening to the public and is nearing completion of the Equestrian Center revitalization project. A second season of *Polo in the Park* will launch in June 2018.

Morven Park is a 1,000-acre historic estate and horse park in Leesburg, Virginia. Known as the "Central Park" of Loudoun County, Morven Park welcomes 250,000 visitors each year who come to enjoy exquisite scenery, formal boxwood gardens, the Morven Park International Equestrian Center, the athletic fields, the iconic Greek Revival mansion, museums and hiking trails. Morven Park was once the home of Thomas Swann, Jr., governor of Maryland during the Civil War, as well as the home of Westmoreland Davis, governor of Virginia during WWI. For more information or to support the Foundation, visit: <u>www.MorvenPark.org</u>.

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