

Clearwater Marine Aquarium Hires Chief Business Officer

Experienced CEO Darryl Connors brings years of strategic partnerships to CMA

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is pleased to announce Darryl Connors as its first Chief Business Officer. Connors brings over 30 years of experience in building strategic partnerships, 20 of which were spent building and running his own businesses as President and CEO. His hire comes at a crucial time as CMA prepares to open an expanded facility drawing visitors from across the globe.

“Darryl brings an incredible wealth of knowledge and expertise at a time the aquarium needs it most,” said David Yates, CEO. “As a non-profit, CMA relies on support from the community and Darryl is a master at successfully constructing and executing financially beneficial partnerships. We are very excited to have him on our team.”

As Chief Business Officer, Connors is responsible for spearheading the implementation of CMA’s corporate partnership strategy and ensuring key financial priorities are met. Collaborating with practice groups and attorneys, Connors works to identify and define, prioritize and create action plans for business development goals to support CMA’s mission.

“Each partnership Connors is able to establish, CMA gets closer to achieving the highest potential of our core mission: the care of our resident and rehabilitating marine animals, environmental education, research, conservation, and life-changing inspirational connections.” said Yates.

“I’m proud to be among professionals who are not only experts, but they are passionate about the work they do each day,” said Connors. “My job is to ensure we have a portfolio of long-term CMA business partners, adding to our established partners.”

Previously, Connors served as President and CEO of Dolphin Motorcoach, a company he owned and sold in 2018. In his spare time, Darryl spends time with his family and loves all sports, especially golf and tennis, and has been a member of the Drug-Free Powerlifting Team for 30 years.

Media Contacts:

Kelsy Long, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, klong@cmaquarium.org, 727-441-1790 x259 or via cell at 410-507-1453.

###

About Clearwater Marine Aquarium:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working marine rescue center dedicated to inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release. CMA is home to rescued dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, stingrays, nurse sharks and more. Winter the dolphin’s story of survival, after an injury that caused her to lose her tail, has impacted millions of people around the world. Major motion picture *Dolphin Tale* (2011) features Winter’s story and its sequel *Dolphin Tale 2* (2014) features the incredible story of Hope, a young resident dolphin of CMA. Through Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute, CMA conducts important global research focused on protecting manatees, right whales and sea turtles. The mission and potential to change people’s lives differentiates Clearwater Marine Aquarium from any other aquarium in the world.