**Press Release**

Change at the W.A. de Vigier Foundation

**Hanna Byland and Carmen Lamparter Form New Management Team**

Solothurn, August 26, 2021 **The Board of the W.A. de Vigier Foundation appoints a new operational management team in Hanna Byland and Carmen Lamparter. As of September 1, 2021, the two women will succeed Regula Buob, who officially announced her departure as Managing Director at the award ceremony in mid-June.**

"By electing Ms. Byland as CEO and Ms. Lamparter as COO, we are not only strengthening the management of our Foundation, but also creating the prerequisites for making the activities of the W.A. de Vigier Foundation even more focused and thus more successful in the future. The Foundation Board is looking forward to working with the new management team," says André Hoffmann, President of the Foundation Board.

In 2017, Hanna Byland founded, established and led Impact Hub Basel, a center for sustainable entrepreneurship, for four years. During this time, she also facilitated the creation and development of a national Impact Hub network, which contributes to the creation of over 2,000 jobs annually. Since 2018, she has also been an independent attorney and partner in a Basel law firm. Ms. Byland specializes in association and foundation law. With her strategic and pragmatic approach, she translates visions into concrete actions. "Bill de Vigier was a pioneer with foresight not only in his entrepreneurial activities, but also in the establishment of the foundation. I look forward to helping to ensure that his legacy continues to be translated into action," says Hanna Byland.

Carmen Lamparter started her own business at a young age and gained a lot of national and international experience in event organization and production. In 2015, she founded the music and event agency Black Pike Favorites and specialized her company in Europe-wide tours for international artists. She has also worked as a manager for established artists from Switzerland and abroad, who have been able to benefit from her wealth of experience. As an entrepreneur in a constantly changing industry, she is accustomed to always acting in a flexible yet far-sighted manner. Ms. Lamparter was already able to put her creative organizational talent to work during the 2021 de Vigier year. "My years of experience in artist management and event organization serve me well in placing our young entrepreneurs in the spotlight and effectively presenting them on the national startup stage," says Carmen Lamparter.

**About the W.A. de Vigier Awards**

The W.A. de Vigier Award is the oldest prize for young entrepreneurs in Switzerland and, with annual prize money of up to CHF 600,000 (six times CHF 100,000), is one of the most highly endowed startup prizes in Switzerland. Over the past 32 years, the foundation has distributed over CHF 11 million of seed money. The results are about 100 flourishing startups, successful IPOs, multiple company exits and above all, many newly created jobs.

The following aspects are relevant for the evaluation of the projects: The entrepreneurial personality, the degree of innovation, the value for society as a whole, the technical and financial viability, market prospects and the potential for job creation.

**Contact details for questions**

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