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Lantern Theater Company Announces Election of Eugene V.N. Bissell to New Position of Board Chairman

PHILADELPHIA – [Lantern Theater Company](#) is pleased to announce the election of **Eugene V.N. Bissell**, to the newly-created position of Board Chairman. Bissell joined the Lantern's Board of Directors in August 2013. Mr. Bissell retired as president and chief executive officer of AmeriGas Propane, Inc. in 2012. He began his career at UGI Corporation in 1981 as part of UGI's executive training program and held positions of increasing responsibility at UGI and in the industrial gases division of AmeriGas prior to leaving in 1987 to become a senior executive in the industrial gasses business of the BOC Group. Mr. Bissell returned to AmeriGas Propane, Inc. in 1995 and held positions in operations, sales, marketing and finance prior to his promotion to president and chief executive officer in 2000.

"The election of Gene Bissell to this new senior board leadership position propels the Lantern into a new era during which we expect that board and administrative development will keep pace with the wonderful accomplishments of our theater artists," said Lantern Board President **Stacy Maria Dutton**. "The Lantern is currently producing its 20th anniversary season with a record number of subscribers, our largest operating budget ever, and a growing community of theater artists engaged in the creation and performance of our productions. Gene is the board leader to take the Lantern to the next level, and we are thrilled and grateful that he has embraced this exciting and ambitious opportunity."

Bissell earned his M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and his B.A. from Kalamazoo College. He has served as a Trustee of Kalamazoo College for over a decade, including as treasurer of its Board of Trustees. Mr. Bissell is a former chair of the National Propane Gas Association, where he continues to serve on the board, and he was recently elected to serve on the Propane Education and Research Council.

About Lantern Theater Company

Lantern Theater Company seeks to be a vibrant, contributing member of its community, exposing audiences to great theater, inviting participation in dialogue and discussion, educating audiences about artistic and social issues, and employing theatrical language and techniques to enrich learning in the classroom. The Lantern reaches a loyal and growing audience of over 18,000 each season through three award-winning core programs: *Mainstage Productions* that are smart, fun, engaging, and connected to the modern world; *Lantern Theater Company: In Conversation*, its audience engagement series that offers an insider's look at each production; and *Illumination*, its innovative education program that engages students and adults in the world of theater, nurturing their artistic expression through in-school residencies, student matinee performances, and teaching artist training for after-school

programs throughout the city.

Philadelphia Weekly named the Lantern “Best Theater Company” in 2008, describing the company’s selection of plays as “impressively diverse in genre and style.” Since the inception of the Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre in 1995, the Lantern has received 73 nominations and 15 awards, including the 2009 Excellence in Theatre Education and Community Service Award. Founded in 1994 by Charles McMahon and Michael Brophy and now celebrating its 20th anniversary season, the Lantern has been in residence at St. Stephen's Theater at 10th & Ludlow Streets in Center City Philadelphia since 1996, managing the performance space and developing it into an affordable multi-purpose performing arts venue.

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