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Disabilities nonprofit names longtime public official as CEO




Rachel Kaprielian is the new CEO of the Malden nonprofit Triangle Inc., which serves those with intellectual disabilities.

TRIANGLE INC.



By [Grant Welker](#) – Projects Reporter, Boston Business Journal
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The intellectual disabilities nonprofit Triangle Inc. has named Rachel Kaprelian, a longtime public official in both elected and appointed positions in state and federal government, as its new CEO.

Kaprelian's first day on the job will be Monday.

Kaprelian joins Malden-based Triangle Inc. from McDonald's, where she was a director of government relations. She started her long career in public service as a state representative and later led the state's Registry of Motor Vehicles. Kaprelian was later the state's secretary of labor and workforce development and then became the regional director for New England for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Kaprelian said she takes experience from each of those roles into her new job, especially with workforce development. A key mission of Triangle Inc. is to help place clients in jobs that match their interest and abilities.

"There's a place for everybody," Kaprelian said of job placement.

Triangle Inc.'s new leader doesn't come to the nonprofit out of nowhere. Kaprelian has served on Triangle Inc.'s board for seven years. She's worked with Coleman Nee, [her predecessor](#) who is stepping down after a decade in the role.

"He's taken the organization to a really good place on many fronts," Kaprelian said of Nee. "I feel very privileged and fortunate to be going into this role."

Kaprelian said she's prioritized workforce development since her days as a young state representative. And society has advanced, she said, to where those with disabilities are expected to have more opportunities at fulfillment, including in the workplace.

"We're there to be a conduit to that expectation," she said.

Employers are also typically more open-minded than they used to be about employing people with intellectual disabilities, she said, making for a mutually beneficial relationship when the right match is found.

Jobs have more traditionally been in food services and retail, but more opportunities are opening up in in-demand fields including home and nursing care, and CNC, or computer numerical control, machining, which provides an entry-level job in a high-tech field.

“I’m looking forward to trying those types of models,” Kaprelian said.

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