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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**YMCA of Greater St. Louis President & CEO Gary Schlansker  
Announces Retirement**

After 39-Year Career, Accomplishments Leave Y in Position  
To Further Impact the Communities

**St. Louis, Mo. (March 13, 2014)** – YMCA of Greater St. Louis President and CEO Gary Schlansker has announced he will retire effective December 31, 2014. His retirement closes the chapter on 39 years of service to the Y, leaving a lasting legacy of positively impacting the lives of those in the communities he served.

“Since I first became involved in Gray-Y at the Mid-County Y as a youngster, it has been a lifelong joy to be able to build a successful career with this wonderful organization,” stated Schlansker. “The Y makes a tremendous impact in the lives of people every day, and it has been an honor for me to be a part of that and work to help make a difference promoting our mission.”

Schlansker was hired as the Greater St. Louis President & CEO in 2003. Prior to that, he held various positions with the Ys in Kewanee, Ill., Peoria, Ill., Evansville, Ind., Nashville, Tenn. and Greenville, S.C.

“Gary has been an exceptional ambassador for the Y, truly personifying the mission and values of the movement throughout his career,” stated Al Kent, chairman of the board, YMCA of Greater St. Louis. “He has left a tremendous legacy and strong foundation upon which we can continue to build to ensure we are positively impacting this community for generations to come. We wish him, his wife Marcy, and their family only the best as they enjoy a well-earned retirement. ”

During his 10 years in St. Louis, Schlansker worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the Y’s mission and to expand the organization’s leadership in promoting youth development, healthy living and social responsibility throughout the region. His accomplishments include overseeing a five-fold increase in teens involved in the Urban Core programs. These programs provide help to low-income residents dealing with many common challenges, including low literacy, rising obesity, poor diet, and limited options to academic and youth activities.

Schlansker also led a \$25 million capital campaign that allowed for significant improvements to Y facilities, including expansions of four branches – Four Rivers, Jefferson County, South City and Wildwood. That campaign also allowed for rebuilding Camp Lakewood, the Y’s co-ed summer overnight camp and outdoor

education center in Potosi, Mo., adjacent to the Trout Lodge Conference and Family Center.

Schlansker has been recognized for his active work nationally with the YMCA of the USA, where he served as the Chairman of the Management Committee of the National YMCA Employee Benefit Plan, served on the Executive Committee of the World Urban Network and now is Chairman of the Executive Committee of the World Urban Network. He also sits on the Steering Committee of the North American Urban Group Ys, and he also has served on numerous YMCA of the USA task forces.

Schlansker most recently directed the combination of the YMCA of Greater St. Louis and the YMCA of Southwest Illinois into one association. Pending regulatory approvals, the newly named Gateway Region YMCA will include 23 branches, with more than 200,000 members, serving nearly 730,000 youth and adults, with the ability to greatly enhance the Y's programs and services throughout the region. The current Boards of Directors for both associations are involved in the process of searching for Schlansker's successor. That individual will become the president and CEO of the Gateway Region YMCA.

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#### **About the YMCA of Greater St. Louis**

The YMCA of Greater St. Louis is a nonprofit organization dedicated to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Featuring 17 traditional Y branches and two Campus Y student leadership facilities on the Missouri side of the St. Louis Metro Area, our Y also includes YMCA Camp Lakewood and Trout Lodge in Potosi, Missouri. The Carondelet Park Rec Complex and O'Fallon Park Rec Complex are owned by the City of St. Louis and operated by the Y. Our Y is a proud member of the United Way. For more information, please visit [www.ymcastlouis.org](http://www.ymcastlouis.org) or call 314-436-1177.