



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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The Institute of Neurodiversity US (IONUS) is the American affiliate of the global Institute of Neurodiversity, an international organization dedicated to advancing the inclusion and empowerment of neurodivergent individuals worldwide. IONUS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2022 and headquartered in Los Angeles, California.

The Institute of Neurodiversity was founded by Charlotte Valeur, an accomplished banker and business executive who, after receiving an autism diagnosis, established ION with the goal of creating an institution led by neurodivergent individuals to serve the neurodivergent community. IONUS was founded after our Executive Director, Rob Hollman, who has been a leader in the philanthropic world for years, read an [article](#) about Charlotte in the *Financial Times* at the end of 2021. Prompted by Charlotte's personal story and her desire to effect change with, for, and by the neurodiverse community, Mr. Hollman reached out to her only to find that she shared a strong interest in establishing a presence in the US. Soon after, IONUS was formed and launched.

It was through our neurodiverse network that Dr. Theresa Haskins - who brings nearly three decades as an executive at an S&P 10 corporation with deep experience working inside complex organizations and understanding how meaningful change happens and who is also a neurodivergent individual raising neurodivergent children - was introduced to Rob. During their initial conversations, they quickly discovered that they share a common mission to be effective change agents for our family members, friends, colleagues and the community at-large. It was at this intersection of her lived experience and systems knowledge that she felt a responsibility to step forward and help lead this work, and she now serves as Present and CEO of IONUS.

Regarding her decision to be a change agent as a leader of IONUS, Dr. Haskins has said, "I'm a researcher, educator, and parent who has spent decades working at the intersection of systems, leadership, and neurodivergence. I don't come to this work theoretically—I come to it because I've lived what happens when systems weren't designed for people like us. ION US represents a shift away from awareness as an end goal and toward real structural change. This is about redesigning workplaces, education, and communities so neurodivergent people can participate fully—without having to constantly explain or justify themselves." Neurodivergent

people are not broken versions of a standard model. They are indicators—showing us where systems are brittle, outdated, or unjust. ION US is about listening to those signals and building something better.”

It was after Rob Hollman, a friend of Alexander Grossman for over two decades, had a catch-up lunch with Mr. Grossman realized that he would be a major asset for IONUS as our Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Grossman has had decades of experience working in foreign affairs, IT telecommunications, transportation, consulting, youth sports, and non-profits. With his knowledge and success in the complicated corporate and philanthropic worlds, combined with his having raised two neurodivergent children, Mr. Grossman’s direct experience in the challenges families can face when trying to ensure children get the support and resources they need to not just survive, but thrive in our society positions him perfectly at this moment in time when IONUS is making its presence clear, pronounced and formal.

Mr Grossman states, “I’m very excited to be part of this team to reach out and provide support for this underserved community leveraging my decades of experience in public service, business, and nonprofits. IONUS’s Board of Directors brings together lived experiences, professional expertise, and global perspective. That combination matters—because real change doesn’t happen in isolation or theory.”

IONUS’s mission is to transform how neurodivergent individuals are seen, supported, and included—by shifting systems, shaping policy, providing information, and elevating the voices of those most impacted. IONUS exists to center the voices of neurodivergent individuals in conversations that shape education, work, policy, and community. IONUS is in the process of developing and building partnerships with families and caregivers to help us all navigate through broken systems, strengthen our ability to self-advocate, and work collaboratively with educators, employers, and leaders of all types. We believe that: neurodiversity is a natural part of human diversity; the lived experience is essential to inform solutions, and no one should be left behind by the very systems meant to support us.

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