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The Boeing Company today announced that Judith Muhlberg has been named vice president of communications, reporting to the Office of the Chairman. Muhlberg, 46, joins Boeing after serving as director of public affairs for Ford Motor Company Automotive Operations, in Detroit. She will begin her new duties on March 1.

"Judith brings to Boeing a proven track record of communicating effectively with the many stakeholders of a truly global company. Her extensive experience, international perspective and strong strategic planning ability will serve Boeing well as we move forward," said Phil Condit, Boeing chairman and chief executive officer. "Judith has been heavily involved and a leading proponent of the many cultural change initiatives at Ford and will be a great asset to our team."

"I am joining Boeing from an industry where technology, communications and global market forces drive results. All the same parameters are at play in the aerospace industry. I hope to bring a well-rounded experience base and an outside perspective to Boeing -- a great global competitor and world icon," Muhlberg said. "I have met many of Boeing's senior leadership team. I've been impressed by their energy level and determination to take on the challenges ahead. I am anxious to make a contribution."

Muhlberg joined Ford in 1977, after working two years in the White House during the Ford administration. Initially she worked for David Gergen, the director of White House Communications and then served as an aide to chiefs of staff Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfield.

At Ford, Muhlberg held a series of increasingly important communications duties during her 22-year career with the world's second-largest automotive company. She has been involved in speechwriting for the chairman and president, internal communications, editorial services, state government affairs, corporate contributions, international public affairs and external media relations. Since 1997, she has been responsible for directing communications strategies and messages for the global company and served on the senior leadership team for the automotive business.

Muhlberg graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in communications. In 1985, she earned a juris doctorate from Detroit College of Law.

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