



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Pat Summitt Foundation Expresses Appreciation to the SEC & Its Member Institutions: 2018 Annual *We Back Pat* Week Continues to Raise Alzheimer's Awareness**

Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 17, 2018– Officials of The Pat Summitt Foundation expressed today their appreciation to the Southeastern Conference (SEC) and all its member institutions for their support of the organization's mission. They noted that for the seventh consecutive year the SEC, in cooperation with its 14- member institutions, has organized a *We Back Pat* Week. The week-long initiative is focused on bringing awareness and recognition to The Pat Summitt Foundation and its fight against Alzheimer's disease.

During the week of January 21<sup>st</sup>– 28<sup>th</sup> SEC member institutions will offer support of The Pat Summitt Foundation during their home basketball games. At every SEC women's basketball game a variety of efforts including promotional public address announcements and video endorsements will help to increase awareness of the foundation and its mission.

Foundation executive director Patrick Wade noted, "The SEC, its 14 member institutions, and fans across the country have played a key role in the growth of The Pat Summitt Foundation as well as the impact The Pat Summitt Clinic has made, which we opened with The University of Tennessee Medical Center a year ago. *We Back Pat* Week provides The Pat Summitt Foundation an opportunity to express our appreciation and to celebrate what we are accomplishing together in honor of Pat."

#### **About The Pat Summitt Foundation**

The Pat Summitt Foundation, a fund of East Tennessee Foundation, was established by Pat Summitt in November 2011. Its mission is to award grants to non-profit organizations that advance research for treatment and a cure, provide support for patients and caregivers, and educate the public on Alzheimer's disease. In January 2015, The Pat Summitt Foundation formed a strategic partnership with The University of Tennessee Medical Center to create The Pat Summitt Clinic. The clinic, which opened in 2017, greatly improves access to healthcare services for families and patients facing Alzheimer's disease in a facility created to advance Alzheimer's research, detection, treatment, and family caregiver support. To learn more, please visit [www.patsummitt.org](http://www.patsummitt.org), like the foundation on [facebook.com/patsummittfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/patsummittfoundation), and follow it on Twitter @webackpat, and Instagram @webackpat.