



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ellen Wheeler, Exec. Director
Email: wheeler@udall.gov
Phone: 520-901-8500
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Director of U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to Resign; Search Under Way for Successor

Kirk Emerson, who has been the director of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution since 1998, has announced that she will resign her position at the end of June. She plans to return to an academic career and has accepted an appointment as a visiting professor at the University of Arizona's School of Public Administration and Policy.

A search for Emerson's successor is being led by Ellen Wheeler, executive director of the Morris K. Udall Foundation. The U.S. Institute is a program of the Udall Foundation; both are based in Tucson. An announcement for the position is posted at www.ecr.gov. The director's position has been redesignated, as a result of internal restructuring at the Udall Foundation, as Deputy Executive Director for Environmental Conflict Resolution.

"We are deeply grateful for Kirk's dedication and service over the last 10 years," Wheeler said. "She has been instrumental in getting the U.S. Institute established within the field of ECR and developing relationships at other federal agencies. I know she will be equally successful in the next phase of her career."

Emerson will continue to collaborate with the U.S. Institute on several projects, including ECR evaluation. She intends to focus on collaborative governance and climate change adaptation and contribute to interdisciplinary research and service at the University of Arizona.

Other Staff Changes

Philip J. Lemanski has been designated Deputy Executive Director for Finance and Education in connection with the Udall Foundation's restructuring. Lemanski, whose title was previously Chief Financial Officer and Director of Education Programs, has been with the Udall Foundation since 1999.

Jeffrey Silvyn has joined the Udall Foundation as general counsel, replacing Ellen Wheeler, who became the Udall Foundation's executive director in January. Silvyn has practiced law for 15 years, representing a variety of private and public entities in legal areas including employment, contracts, and real estate. He has also been involved in numerous mediations and arbitrations. Most recently, Silvyn was a partner with the Tucson law firm Waterfall, Economidis, Caldwell, Hanshaw, & Villamana, P.C.

Melinda J. Holland has recently become a senior program manager for the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, focusing primarily on issues involving energy and environmental quality. She has 29 years combined legal, mediation, and technical experience in environmental protection, specializing in water, wastewater, Superfund, hazardous and nuclear waste issues.

Holland previously was senior mediator for Holland & Associates. Her facilitation/mediation experience includes conducting numerous conflict assessments; convening and facilitating Federal Advisory Committees, public meetings, and workshops; and providing trainings in dispute resolution. Ms. Holland was also Director of State Programs for Clean Sites, Inc., a non-profit environmental organization where she provided legal, public policy, and mediation support for numerous state environmental agency Superfund programs. Given her undergraduate training and work experience as a microbiologist and environmental scientist, she is knowledgeable about issues involving a high degree of science and technology.

Brian J. Manwaring has joined the U.S. Institute as a program manager focusing primarily on multi-stakeholder planning and conflict resolution processes involving water resources. Prior to coming to the U.S. Institute, Manwaring worked for over five years at CH2M HILL, an international environmental consulting firm. He has 11 years combined facilitation, mediation, decision analysis, and public involvement experience with water, wastewater, transportation, and other issues.

The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution is a federal program established in 1998 by the U.S. Congress to assist parties in resolving environmental, natural resource and public land conflicts. It is a program of the Tucson-based Morris K. Udall Foundation, an independent agency of the executive branch overseen by a board of trustees appointed by the President. The Morris K. Udall Foundation was established in 1992 by Congress to honor the late Morris K. Udall's thirty years of service in the House of Representatives. More information about the Udall Foundation and the U.S. Institute can be found at www.udall.gov and www.ecr.gov.

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