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For Immediate Release

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Contacts: Dave Newport, Adam Briggie

CU Environmental Center announces new Director

Dave Newport in position Jan. 9

The CU Environmental Center begins the semester under new leadership. Dave Newport, a recognized leader in university environmental sustainability and public service, was named director of the center in December and began his position Jan. 9.

“Dave brings an incredible breadth of experience in campus environmental sustainability,” said Adam Briggie, chair of the Environmental Board. “We are all extremely excited to work with someone of his caliber.”

Newport said he too is excited for the move to CU, and hopes to bring his experience to the university’s sustainability programs.

“It is an honor to be asked to serve alongside such respected people in such an accomplished environment,” he said. “It is a privilege to work with students so caring and capable.”

Newport comes to Boulder from the University of Florida, where he was UF's director of the Office of Sustainability. There, he researched and published higher education's first sustainability report compiled to global business standards and spearheaded a plan to make the nation's fourth largest university "a global leader in sustainability." At UF, Newport also launched a zero-waste program, which has now become a campus target for all operations.

“Dave’s deep and abiding commitment to campus sustainability is only matched by his practical sense of what can be done today to set the stage for tomorrow’s accomplishments,” said Leslie Paul Thiele, professor at UF and chair of the UF Sustainability Committee.

In addition to his experience at UF, Newport served as a county commissioner in Alachua County from 1998 to 2002. As commissioner, Newport championed renewable energy and energy conservation efforts.

Prior to his work in public service, Newport was the owner, publisher, and editor of Florida Environments Publishing, Inc., where he published an award-winning environmental news journal and numerous other informative pieces.

Newport is currently a graduate student completing a Masters of Science degree in Energy Resource Management and Policy from the University of Maryland. Newport holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Syracuse University with concentrations in Management and Communications, and an Associate of Science degree in Environmental Science Technology from Santa Fe Community College.

Newport said he is excited to enhance the excellence of the Environmental Center to even higher levels of achievement and to showcase the center's accomplishments globally to highlight CU as a world-class university with "significant positive impact on the planet and people." He also said that expanding the center's student support base is crucial.

"Clearly we have to broaden our impact into more diverse and minority populations," he said. "And that is an opportunity for leadership we shall not shrink from."

Newport's appointment comes almost a year after the Center's previous director, Will Toor, left to pursue goals as a Boulder County Commissioner. Marianne Moulton Martin served as interim director during the national search process. Dave Newport was selected out of eighty applicants.

The Environmental Center is holding a series of open houses to provide an opportunity to meet and welcome Dave Newport.

- Tuesday, January 17, 5-7pm, Old Main Heritage Center, University of Colorado Boulder campus
- Wednesday, January 18, 9-11am, Environmental Center, University Memorial Center room 355
- Thursday, January 19, 3-5pm, Environmental Center, University Memorial Center room 355

Established in 1970, the University of Colorado Environmental Center is the nation's leading campus Environmental Center. For more information, visit <http://ecenter.colorado.edu> .

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