

NEWS RELEASE

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Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Names Stevan K. Leger Executive Director of Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center

World-Class Educational Facility to Open in August

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 1, 2011) – Stevan K. Leger has been appointed executive director of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Interpretive Learning Center, according to Shirley Ann Higuchi, chairman of the foundation. Located between Cody and Powell, Wyo., the educational center is in the final stages of construction and will open August 20. Higuchi said Leger was chosen from 40 candidates across the nation following an extensive search effort by the board of directors.

Leger was formerly annual giving senior manager for the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyo., where he was in charge of fund raising and membership development. Prior to that position, he served as development director for several non-profit organizations in Wisconsin where he led fund raising, grant writing, marketing and public relations initiatives. He also was co-owner and business manager of a mental health counseling center in Wisconsin. Earlier in his career, Leger was involved in several outdoor leadership and wilderness programs for youth and adults.

“Steve Leger brings a great depth of experience in non-profit management, membership marketing and fund raising to the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Interpretive Learning Center and we are delighted to welcome him,” said Pete Simpson, board member and chairman of the executive search committee.

“Steve’s past experience also has given him an understanding of regional tourism and local attractions, which will be important as we seek to become an important stop on the itinerary of visitors to the state of Wyoming and the Yellowstone area,” added Simpson.

Currently a resident of Cody, Wyo., Leger is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and past member and officer of numerous charitable, religious and service organizations. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Leger attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Stevan K. Leger Named Executive Director/2

“I am deeply committed to the goal of educating the public, now and in years to come, about the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II,” said Leger.

“In bringing their stories to life at the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Interpretive Learning Center, we will be teaching the importance of protecting the rights and liberties of all Americans so this never happens again. I am honored to have the chance to work with the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation board of directors and advisory council members to realize this mission,” he added.

About the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) was formed in 1996, dedicated to preserving the site of the Heart Mountain “Relocation Center” in Park County, Wyo., where nearly 14,000 people of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated from 1942 to 1945, surrounded by guard towers and barbed wire fences. In total, some 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of them American-born citizens, were deprived of due process and forced to leave their homes and livelihoods during WWII. The HMWF acquired 50 acres of land to preserve the site and interpret what occurred there – for the current and future generations of Americas. The new 11,000 sq. ft. Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Interpretive Learning Center, opening August 20, 2011, will house an extensive collection of artifacts and educational exhibits that serve to honor Heart Mountain survivors and stand as a lasting tribute to their experiences. For more information about the grand opening, or to make a donation, visit www.heartmountain.org.

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