

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Audubon Community Nature Center Executive Director Leigh Rovegno to Depart for New Role with the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation

Jamestown, NY – The Audubon Community Nature Center (ACNC) announces that Executive Director Leigh Rovegno will step down on June 21 after nearly seven years of transformative leadership. Rovegno has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, with the Foundation’s formal announcement to follow soon.

Since joining ACNC in 2018, Rovegno has guided the organization through a remarkable era of growth, development, and innovation. Her tenure has seen the implementation of major capital projects, the expansion of educational programming, increased financial stability, and the strengthening of internal policies and governance. Among her many accomplishments are the creation of the Stephanie Frucella Education Pavilion, Pamela A. Westrom Wildlife Habitat, extensive technology upgrades, and enhancements to ACNC’s indoor and outdoor exhibits and facilities.

“The staff, board, volunteers, and all of the people involved with the Audubon are its greatest treasure,” said Rovegno. “They are some of the most interesting and passionate people I have ever met. They care so deeply about this organization and about the natural world. I look forward to continuing my work with the Audubon as I take on my new role with the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, which has been a long-standing supporter of ACNC. During my time as Executive Director of the Audubon, the Foundation has provided critical funding for improvements ranging from upgraded security systems and paved trails to enhancements to our indoor play spaces. I am excited to continue supporting the important work of the Audubon—and to expand that support to the many nonprofit organizations that make Chautauqua County an exceptional place to live.”

Tina Downey, Chair of the ACNC Board of Directors, praised Rovegno’s contributions: “Leigh’s impact on Audubon Community Nature Center cannot be overstated. Her thoughtful leadership, deep commitment to environmental education, and focus on building strong relationships have elevated every aspect of our organization—from our programs and facilities to our financial health and community partnerships. We are grateful for all she has done, and are excited to see the positive influence she will continue to have across the region through her new role at the Sheldon Foundation.”

The ACNC Board of Directors will soon initiate a regional search for its next Executive Director to build on the strong foundation Rovegno has established.

For more information about the Audubon Community Nature Center, please visit auduboncnc.org.

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