



Mission: To cultivate a passion for science, leadership, and service in a diverse community of learners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) Announces New Executive Director

Denver, CO – The Board of Directors of Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) announces the appointment of its new Executive Director, Loretta Piñeda. ELK's founder and longtime Executive Director Stacie Gilmore, Denver City Councilwoman-elect for District 11, is leaving ELK on July 17th, 2015 to devote herself full time to her newly elected post.

Stacie Gilmore had this to say about her departure from ELK: "After 19 glorious years as the Executive Director of ELK, I am ready to move on to my next chapter in life as the Councilwoman for Denver's District 11. Together as a strong team, the ELK Board of Directors, staff, youth, and volunteers have created a nationally recognized organization that is strong, strategic, and poised to grow. The community's ongoing support and guidance has been vital in enabling us to build such a strong foundation."

As Executive Director of Environmental Learning for Kids, Piñeda will champion an organization that serves more than 5,000 underserved, urban youth each year through year-round intensive programs and in-school/after-school programs in Denver, Adams, and Arapahoe counties. "After decades of work with the Department of Natural Resources for the State of Colorado, it is an honor to continue the commitment to the field -- this time directly impacting students' lives and their families," Piñeda said. "There are big plans for ELK ahead – the restoration of an Open Space area in the Montbello neighborhood and building an education center that ELK can call home. This is a tremendous opportunity for all of us to give back while reaching forward. Our young people need us and I will be there with all the heart and soul that is ELK!"

“On behalf of the Board of Directors of Environmental Learning for Kids, I am thrilled to welcome Loretta Piñeda as ELK’s new Executive Director,” said Board Chair Matt Kaspari. “Stacie’s unyielding love for and commitment to connecting underserved youth to the outdoors and careers in the STEM fields leave Loretta with large shoes to fill. Her extensive career with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, passion for helping youth succeed, and longtime involvement with ELK make her the natural choice for supporting ELK’s foundation and growth through its current endeavors and beyond.”

ELK plans to honor Stacie Gilmore for her nearly two decades of service later this year.

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About Environmental Learning for Kids

Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) is a Denver-based, 501(c)3 organization established in 1996 to address the growing need to introduce and educate Colorado’s urban youth about science, leadership, and careers. Nineteen years later, ELK continues to provide strong educational support, good role models, and opportunities for positive community action for youth, helping them to become engaged, productive, and successful members of society. For more information about ELK please visit www.elkkids.org.