

PRESS RELEASE

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The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals Announces New Executive Director Julian C. Gray

Hillsboro, Oregon 7/15/14.....The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals announces the appointment of its new Executive Director, Julian C. Gray. Gray is the former Curator of the Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, Georgia, where oversaw the interpretation and care of the museum's collections including collections management, exhibit fabrication, and library. He served as final word on the scientific and technical accuracy of all exhibits, educational materials, and public communications. As an integral participant in nearly every major decision-making process concerning museum operations and strategic planning, Gray also was involved in numerous marketing campaigns, educational programs, and human resources matters, and was frequently sought out as local expert for science outreach, providing live interviews with and presentations for local media and civic groups.

During his tenure Tellus' collections and stature grew significantly, including acquisition of parts of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia mineral collection related to the Southeast and the former geology collection of the Georgia Capitol Museum. He also helped the Museum achieve Smithsonian Affiliation status, which facilitated loans of significant fossil material related to Georgia from the National Museum of Natural History and Apollo-era artifacts from the National Air and Space Museum. Most recently, Gray was fundamental in obtaining a lunar sample exhibit for Tellus on permanent loan from NASA, the only such exhibit in Georgia.

Gray also is active in the mineralogical community, locally, nationally, and internationally, serving on the board of the Society of Mineral Museum Professionals as well as past president of Friends of Mineralogy (national organization and Southeast chapter). Other leadership roles included the Atlanta Geological Society and Georgia Mineral Society. He is the co-author of chapters related to Georgia mineral localities in the widely-acclaimed book, "American Mineral Treasures" and along with Dr. Robert Cook co-author of the 2nd edition of the book, "Minerals of Georgia", currently in press.

Gray holds Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in geology from Georgia State University and has taught geology at the graduate and undergraduate university levels. He also shares his passion for mineralogy with enthusiasts of all through numerous lectures, workshops, and his photomicrography.

"I am excited to take over the leadership of this amazing museum. This museum is the best mineral museum in the Northwest and is recognized for among mineral collectors nationally for its outstanding collections. I first visited this museum ten years ago and was struck by the size and quality of the exhibits at the Rice Museum," said Gray.

The Rice Museum houses a world-class collection of rocks and minerals recognized as the finest in the Pacific Northwest and one of the best in the nation. The Museum is located in Hillsboro, Oregon just west of Portland (exit 61 off of Highway 26). Its educational programs include organized school field trips as well as ongoing educational outreach throughout the community at large, along with a variety of public and private events hosted throughout the year. The Museum is listed in the National Registry for Historic Places for its unique architectural style and its use of natural stone and extraordinary native Oregon woodwork throughout the building. For more information about the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals, call (503) 647-2418 or visit www.ricenorthwestmuseum.org or www.facebook.com/RiceNWMuseum.

Museum Mission: To engage, inspire, and educate generations on the splendor and complexities of our Earth.