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COLLEGE PARK, MD

The University of Maryland Appoints Dr. Suzanne Dorsey as Executive Director of Hughes Center

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland along with the Board of Directors of the Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc. are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Suzanne Dorsey as Executive Director of the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology. Dr. Dorsey succeeds Dr. Russ Brinsfield in this position.

Dr. Dorsey has been involved in research, teaching, and building collaborative partnerships for more than twenty years. She joins the Hughes Center from Bald Head Island Conservancy and Smith Island Land Trust in North Carolina where she serves as the Executive Director. In that role she was the chief administrative officer, leading and overseeing the Conservancy's fundraising efforts and budget, and education and conservation programs, including an internationally recognized Sea Turtle Protection Program. She also handled the oversight and stewardship of more than 200 acres of property under protection from various conservation practices. During her tenure, the Conservancy was successful in completing a \$4.5 million capital campaign.

In accepting her appointment, Dr. Dorsey noted that "I am inspired by Governor Hughes' leadership and humbled by the active and engaged Board of Directors that bring together so many valuable perspectives and share a determination to find solutions to ensure viable agriculture and forestry in Maryland as well as clean and productive waterways."

She also observes that, "the partnership between the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland is the best opportunity to be the driving force for productive agriculture and clean waterways in Maryland and beyond. Farming families share the desire to keep waterways clean and productive; they want solutions that are economically viable and practically feasible. Bridging the gap between science-based solutions and the business of forestry and farming is the answer to the shared goal of reducing agriculturally based runoff."

Under Dr. Dorsey's tenure, the Bald Head Island Conservancy has catalyzed a number of partnerships including relationships with local, state, and federal agencies. In addition, the organization has developed partnerships with industry as well as higher education institutions including University of North Carolina Wilmington and North Carolina State University.

Dr. Dorsey also serves as an adjunct professor of Marine Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She teaches an honors course, Barrier Island Ecology. This course provides students with leadership opportunities in local environmental decision making.

Previously, Dr. Dorsey held the position of assistant professor at Salem College. During her time at Salem, she was the recipient of a 3 year renewable Earthwatch grant in Barbados and Cariaccou, West Indies where she worked with regional governing organizations to facilitate research and educated the youth regarding conservation of their island resources.

Prior to her teaching career, Dr. Dorsey participated as a research assistant at the Marine Science Research Center at State University of New York at Stony Brook and the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory at Solomons, Maryland. During this time, she obtained a strong background in the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf Stream as well as the Mid-Atlantic rivers and wetlands. Dr. Dorsey noted that she is "eager to work with the world renowned scientists and students at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to find inspiration to address the region's issues and find solutions."

In sharing news of the appointment with faculty, staff and the Board of Directors of the Harry Hughes Center, Dr. Craig Beyrouthy, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, noted that "Dr. Suzanne Dorsey brings a combination of sound academics, research and outreach in the areas of environmental stewardship and agricultural sustainability. She has demonstrated a commitment to the Land Grant Mission throughout her career and we are delighted that she is continuing her professional career in Maryland."

Dr. Dorsey attained her Ph.D. in Coastal Oceanography from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and her Master of Science degree in Marine-Estuarine Environmental Science at the University of Maryland. She has spent many months at sea in research vessels and over 1,000 hours underwater for research diving. During her youth, her experience racing sailboats on the Potomac and cruising the Bay built a strong connection to Maryland and her waterways.

A native of Maryland, Dr. Dorsey and her family are pleased to return to Maryland this summer. She will begin her position part-time in August and resume her duties full time effective September 4.

About the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology

The Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) corporation affiliated with the University of Maryland College Park and the University System of Maryland. Founded in 1999, the Center brings together diverse interests from the agricultural, forestry, and environmental communities for the purpose of retaining Maryland's working landscapes and the industries they support while protecting and improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The Center works toward achieving its diverse mission through a three-pronged approach of scientific research, policy analysis, and outreach and education efforts. For additional information, please visit <https://agresearch.umd.edu/agroecol>.

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