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Environmental Learning Center Announces New Development Director



Wabasso Island, FL – The Environmental Learning Center (ELC) announces the recent appointment of Camille Yates as its new Development Director. Yates returns to the ELC where she worked earlier in her career. She states that “having worked for the ELC 15 years ago, it’s great to be back at my old stomping grounds. The place has really grown, both structurally and program-wise.” Before returning to the ELC she was the Grants Division Manager for the St. Lucie County Board of Commissioners where she oversaw all aspects of grant funding proposal development for St. Lucie County. Prior to that, Yates was Curator of the Manatee Observation and Education Center. In her new position she is responsible for all aspects of fund raising to support the ELC. Success in these efforts will enable the ELC to continue its mission of providing comprehensive environmental education to instill understanding of our natural world, and motivate participants to be active stewards of our natural resources.

Yates brings an impressive background to her new position. She is a Magna Cum Laude graduate with a BA in Political Science from the University of North Texas. She earned a Master of Science in Conservation Biology/Ecology from the Florida Institute of Technology, and has taken numerous Human Relations courses at Indian River State College. In addition, she brings 15 years of experience as a successful fundraiser by cultivating individual donors, developing and implementing fundraising events, and securing grants funding.

Yates reports to the ELC Executive Director, Holly Dill, and works closely with both the ELC and ELC Foundation Trustees. She is responsible for redefining and implementing a fundraising program involving major gifts, memberships, corporate giving, foundation grants, a capital campaign, special project underwriting, event sponsorships, and endowment growth. Success in these endeavors will enable the ELC to continue to provide its important environmental education programs to all age groups. Yates states that “although we have enjoyed the support of many

generous donors, my goal is to create an even better, sustainable financial environment for the ELC. My background in the environmental field gives me a first-hand understanding of what the ELC is all about. For years, I have encouraged better stewardship of the earth. ”

The Environmental Learning Center is located north of Vero Beach off County Road 510 at the end of the Wabasso Bridge. Its 64-acre campus includes exhibit areas, native plant gardens, picnic facilities, gift shop, and visitor center. ELC membership benefits, a list of its many field excursions, EcoVentures, including nature walks, canoe excursions, and boating adventures can be found at www.DiscoverELC.org.

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