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## 50 Years of Education and Action for a Healthy Environment

### **reSource to Merge with the Central Oregon Environmental Center on July 1** *reSource Staff and Programs Will Become Part of the Environmental Center*

Big change is in the works here at the Central Oregon Environmental Center!

After considerable discussion and reflection, the COEC and reSource Board of Directors have decided that joining together with as one organization will allow us to more effectively and efficiently serve our shared purpose: to ensure a healthy environment in Central Oregon and beyond, today and for future generations.

"I am very excited about the merger," says reSource executive director Mike Riley. "The Environmental Center has a long history of bringing our community together to take action on behalf of the environment, an approach that fits well with how we work. And integrating our programs will enhance the services we provide to the central Oregon community."

Shauna Quistorff, executive director of Central Oregon Environmental Center (COEC), agrees. "We are very excited about combining our efforts with reSource. They have a proven track record of sustainability programs that will strengthen our current mix of community programs."

The Boards of Directors of both organizations identified five core reasons for the merger:

1. Both organizations share a common purpose: to ensure a healthy environment in Central Oregon and beyond, today and for future generations.
2. To achieve our shared purpose, we have independently developed a complimentary and sometimes overlapping mix of programs and services that target similar audiences in the Central Oregon community we serve. Both organizations currently offer programs and services to youth, businesses, and individual consumers/households, educating them about and providing them with tools and services to reduce their impact on the environment. By merging, we will more effectively serve these target audiences through integrated programs.
3. Each organization has a critical asset that the other has identified as a need but has also recognized it will likely have trouble securing on its own. reSource has significant cash reserves and COEC owns a quality facility located on a prime location in downtown Bend. By merging, we will benefit collectively from these two important assets.

4. Both organizations have identified the need to grow their development and fundraising capacity by adding a development director and/or additional development support staff, but have also recognized it will be challenging to financially support such positions on their own. Merging will allow us to leverage our joint resources to build one development department (rather than two) more quickly and efficiently.

5. We share a concern about the increasing size of the nonprofit community in our region and the pressure that puts on donors, sponsors and volunteers. By merging COEC and reSource, we hope to contribute to making the nonprofit sector more effective and efficient and to simplify and clarify the philanthropic options available in our community.

“For all of these reasons, we feel that merging now will make us more effective and efficient at achieving our shared purpose over the long-term” said Megan Power, chair of reSource’s Board of Directors.

The current programs of both organizations will be maintained as is until a new strategic plan has been adopted by the joint Board next fall, at which time we will begin to make any needed program changes. Mike Riley will be the Executive Director and Shauna Quistorff will be the Director of Communications and Development and together will act as the executive leadership team of the merged organization. All of reSource’s current staff will join COEC as employees on July 1.

QUESTIONS? Call Shauna Quistorff at 541-385-6908 or email her at [shauna@envirocenter.org](mailto:shauna@envirocenter.org).