



Northern
Forest
Center

NEWS RELEASE

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Northern Forest Center appoints Rob Riley as President

CONCORD—The Board of Directors has appointed Robert A. Riley, Jr. to succeed Stephen D. Blackmer as president of the Northern Forest Center, a regional non-profit organization working to build a sustainable economy and revitalize communities across northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York.

“Rob brings a terrific set of skills to help lead the Center as we start our second decade of service to the region,” said Board Chair Paul O. Bofinger. “We’ve spent 10 years building the shared vision that we need in order to address complex economic, community and conservation issues. Now with Rob’s leadership, we’ll be implementing new programs that can make lasting improvements for the people and communities of the Northern Forest.”

“I am honored by the Board’s faith in me and am excited about the work ahead of us,” Riley said. “The Center takes a unique approach, working regionally across the four states to address community, economic and conservation issues. We’re close to the completion of an economic strategy for the region that is the collective work of a steering committee appointed by four governors. I look forward to working with our many partners across the region to implement this innovative strategy.”

Riley’s appointment is the result of a national search that Bofinger said was very gratifying for the organization. “The quality of the candidates was fantastic, and they showed us that the Center has earned a great deal of respect for its work across the region,” he said. That respect is underscored by the recent decision of the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to award a major grant in support of the Center’s programs.

Riley joined the Center in 2007 as director of programs. Prior to the Center, he served as director of MicroCredit-NH, an award-winning statewide community economic development program. Before that Riley founded and served as executive director of Main Street Plymouth, Inc., which received New Hampshire’s “Main Street Program of the Year Award” in 2000. His other professional experience is wide ranging both in scope and geography: he’s been director of Youth Programs at Sagebrush Arena in Hailey, Idaho, and a farmer and logger in Andover, Vermont.

The *New Hampshire Union Leader* included Rob in its 2003 list of “Forty Outstanding Leaders Under 40 in New Hampshire.” Riley lives in Canterbury, New Hampshire, with his wife Tabitha and their two children, Alice and William.

The Northern Forest Center is a non-profit organization that mobilizes people to build healthy communities, economies, and ecosystems by working together across the Northern Forest region. Since it was founded in 1997, the Center’s work has been funded by individuals, foundations, corporations and government grants, including the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, Vermont Community Foundation, Sudbury Foundation, Surdna Foundation, Public Service of New Hampshire, Verizon, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Economic Development Administration.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: A photo of Rob Riley is available for publication. Please contact Kelly Short, Communications Director, at 603-229-0679, ext. 105, kshort@northernforest.org.