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Buell Foundation Announces Retirement of President & CEO, Susan Steele

Denver, CO – For Immediate Release

The Buell Foundation announced today that Susan Steele, the Foundation's President & CEO, will be retiring later this year.

Buell Foundation Board Chairman, Dr. Reginald Washington who is Chief Medical Officer at Presbyterian/Saint Luke's Medical Center and the Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children, commented, "As the Buell Foundation evolved over decades, Susan developed a strong and effective team of experts to carry out the work of grantmaking with a focus on relationship building at the community level. She was instrumental in establishing the positive reputation that allows the Foundation to engage with stakeholders throughout Colorado in the support of young children."

Ms. Steele has a 30-year history with the Buell Foundation. After working for several years in the business office of the Foundation and as a program officer, she took the role of Executive Director in 1998 and was then promoted to President & CEO in 2019. During her tenure she has helped the Foundation develop as a leader in early childhood development throughout the state of Colorado. Under her leadership, the Foundation was recognized as Foundation of the Year in 2012, and Susan was recognized in 2015 as Outstanding Professional Grantmaker by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Colorado chapter.

"It has been an honor to work with inspiring individuals in Colorado who work every day to strengthen the early childhood system and ensure that young children and their families thrive," said Steele, "I have been able to build relationships from one end of the state to the other, and every relationship has helped me to better advocate for our youngest citizens – every teacher, parent, legislator, stakeholder and philanthropic peer. I am so proud of what I have been a part of and what we have accomplished together."

Susan is currently the co-chair of Colorado's Early Childhood Leadership Commission, which advises the Office of Early Childhood on early childhood priorities and best practices. In that role she spearheaded the effort to bring an independent state department dedicated to early childhood, the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, set to begin operations this summer, as well as a new Universal Preschool Program. In addition, she is a founding partner of the Buell Early Childhood Leadership Program, Colorado EPIC, and Early Milestones Colorado. She also serves on the Denver Preschool Program board and is a past chair of Philanthropy Colorado.

Dan Ritchie, former Buell Foundation President and current Trustee, stated, "Susan has played a critical role in building the reach and effectiveness of the Buell Foundation across the state. Her efforts will have a lasting impact and set us up for exciting opportunities in the future."

As the Buell Foundation moves into a period of change, the Board of Trustees maintains a commitment to the field of early childhood in Colorado. Ms. Steele will transition leadership of the Buell Foundation

to a new CEO who will guide the Buell Foundation into its next chapter. A national search will commence over the summer as the Board seeks to fill this critical role. The Board and Staff of the Buell Foundation ask that all inquirers about this position reach out only after the formal search process begins. Information will be available on the Buell Foundation website once the process is underway, including a timeline, job description, and inquiry process.

About the Buell Foundation

Founded in 1962, the Buell Foundation was born out of the philanthropic interests of Temple Buell, a noted 20th century architect who designed more than 300 buildings in Colorado and the surrounding region. The Buell Foundation partners with communities across Colorado and is currently focused on grantmaking that supports positive early childhood development and teen pregnancy prevention. Over its history, the Buell Foundation has awarded more than \$200 million in grants and has typically contributed more than 60% of those funds to rural and under-resourced communities.

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