

**For Immediate Release**

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## **THE BUELL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRESIDENT & CEO**



The Board of Trustees of the Buell Foundation is pleased to announce that Steve ErkenBrack has been named President & CEO of the Foundation.

Mr. ErkenBrack has built a career spanning law, public service, business, and government, making him uniquely qualified to lead the Foundation. As President and CEO of Rocky Mountain Health Plans, he led the growth and development of the organization from 2009 to 2019. During the transformations of state and federal healthcare reform, the company was considered a model of private sector-government collaboration serving all consumers, culminating in a Presidential visit to Grand Junction at the height of health care reform.

Throughout Mr. ErkenBrack's professional tenure, he has had extensive engagement with state government, in both executive and legislative branches, having been repeatedly selected by the legislature to serve on committees and commissions in health care reform. Mr. ErkenBrack also served as the Chief Deputy Attorney General for Colorado, supervising the day-to-day legal work for state government, and as the elected District Attorney for the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District in Grand Junction. He has provided leadership in a number of business and legal organizations in Colorado, including Club 20, Colorado Forum, and Colorado Public Radio, and brings extensive knowledge of the entire state from these roles.

Mr. ErkenBrack also served on the Board of the Buell Foundation for more than a decade. He chaired the Strategy Committee for the organization, and is well-versed in the operations, mission, and vision for the Foundation. He is committed to continuing the important and impactful work of the Foundation in supporting early childhood education and development.

Mr. ErkenBrack received his undergraduate education at the U.S. Naval Academy and Washington & Lee University, and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Colorado.

"I am profoundly honored to have the opportunity to build on the remarkable foundation Susan Steele has developed over the past 25 years. I hope to sustain and enhance Buell's support of our hundreds of partners serving children in communities throughout all of Colorado, and I look forward to working closely with state policy makers. I am also particularly pleased for the chance to work with the outstanding existing staff who have been the key to Buell's extraordinary reputation and level of expertise in early childhood development and education," Mr. ErkenBrack said.

Reflecting on Mr. ErkenBrack's appointment to this role, Board Chair Dr. Reginald Washington said, "Steve ErkenBrack brings to Buell a wealth of experience in business and government. He looks forward

to working closely with both state government and local partners throughout the state during this critical time for early childhood. As a Board Trustee for more than a decade, he also brings a strategic perspective and a demonstrated passion to help make Colorado the epitome of excellence in the field. Most importantly, Steve is committed to sustaining and enhancing the remarkable foundation developed over decades through the leadership of Susan Steele and Buell's outstanding staff."

Mr. ErkenBrack expects to begin work at the Foundation in early January 2023.

The Trustees congratulate Susan Steele for her accomplishments over 30 highly successful years with the Buell Foundation. After working for several years in the business office of the Foundation and as a program officer, Ms. Steele became Executive Director in 1998 and was promoted to President & CEO in 2019. During her tenure, Ms. Steele 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 Ms. Steele was recognized in 2015 as Outstanding Professional Grantmaker by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Colorado chapter.

Ms. Steele will retire from the Foundation at the end of December. The Board is honored to have partnered with her for so long in directing multiple, innovative efforts that have made a difference for families across our state.

#### **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.

More information is available at [www.buellfoundation.org](http://www.buellfoundation.org).

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