

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Center for Aquatic Sciences Announces Dr. Nicole Gillespie as new President & CEO and Ms. Barbara Kelly as Executive Vice President & COO**

Camden, New Jersey – The board of directors of the Center for Aquatic Sciences is pleased to announce the appointment of Nicole Gillespie as its new President and CEO and Barbara Kelly as its Executive Vice President and COO, both effective March 4, 2022.

Dr. Gillespie brings to the Center a wealth of leadership experience and a passion for community service. She succeeds Brian DuVall, who will retire in March after 33 years of dedicated service to the Center.

“Our board of directors is excited to introduce a leader of Nicole’s caliber to guide the Center in delivering programs and service to our community,” said board chair Jennifer Miller. “Nicole brings extensive qualifications and demonstrated expertise to build on the success of the Center and create a lasting impact.”

Dr. Gillespie comes to the Center from her former role as President and CEO of the Knowles Teacher Initiative in Moorestown, NJ. While at Knowles, she developed and executed the organization’s long-range strategy to achieve their mission, expanded the reach of the organization across a broader pool of teachers, and helped diversify revenue streams. She led the organization’s technology vision and strategy, including development of an internal communication platform, database implementation, website development, and social media strategy. Prior to her time with Knowles, Dr. Gillespie was a science teacher and teacher educator, and served as a commissioned Officer of the United States Navy with a focus on cryptology. She holds a PhD, Education in Science, Mathematics & Technology from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master of Science degree in Physics from the University of Washington, Seattle, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering with a Russian minor from the United States Naval Academy.

“With each discussion about the Center, my respect for and excitement about the organization grows,” says Dr. Gillespie. “My goal in leading the Center is to build on the achievements of the past 30+ years, continuing to support and motivate the dedicated and talented staff, building upon the collaborative relationships with partner organizations as we expand our positive impact on the community we serve.”

Dr. Gillespie’s appointment is as a result of a thorough national search process, led by members of the Center’s board of directors. “Nicole will propel the organization forward and expand our ability to advance environmental education and engage youth and families within our community,” noted Ms. Miller.

Ms. Barbara Kelly is well-known within the South Jersey non-profit community and formerly served as the Center’s Senior Director of Institutional Advancement. In this role, Ms. Kelly developed a focused fundraising strategy to increase financial support for the Center’s various programs, in particular CAUSE, Community and Urban Science Enrichment. She also led and executed the Center’s communications and marketing strategies which were designed to increase awareness of the Center and its focus. Prior to her more than ten years with the Center, Ms. Kelly was a C.A.S.E Manager with the Franklin Institute and before that focused on family and adult programs for the New Jersey State Aquarium. Ms. Kelly has a Master of Science degree in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Roanoke College in Virginia.

“The board is equally as thrilled to recognize the material contributions Barbara Kelly has made to the success of the Center through her promotion to Executive Vice President and COO. Having had the pleasure of collaborating with

Barbara for the past ten years, I can truly say she is one of a kind. She possesses a rare combination of breadth of skill set and depth of technical knowledge as well as passion, commitment and endless energy to deliver on our mission,” reflected Ms. Miller.

Please join the Center of Aquatic Sciences board and staff in welcoming Nicole Gillespie to our organization and community and congratulating Barbara Kelly on her new role as Executive Vice President and COO.

The Center for Aquatic Sciences is a nonprofit organization dedicated to education and youth development through promoting the understanding, appreciation and protection of aquatic life and habitats.

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