



6252 W. 104th Ave. Westminster, CO 80020
www.butterflies.org

Contact: Jenifer Doane
Marketing Director
Phone: 720-974-1864
Fax: 303-657-5944
E-mail: jdoane@butterflies.org

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Butterfly Pavilion Names New President / CEO

Denver, CO – The Butterfly Pavilion, the nation's first stand-alone invertebrate zoo, is pleased to announce Patrick Tennyson of Broomfield, has been named president and chief executive officer of the Butterfly Pavilion. Tennyson succeeds Robert Bonacci who retired on June 30, 2010, after a distinguished 12-year tenure at the Butterfly Pavilion.

Tennyson, 11-year employee of the Butterfly Pavilion, has served as the deputy CEO since 2008 and the Education Director since 1999. His appointment is effective immediately.

"We're very pleased that Patrick has accepted the Butterfly Pavilion's CEO position," said Chalmer West, Butterfly Pavilion Board President. "He has a long and successful history with the Pavilion and brings a wealth of experience, and a passion for the educational and environmental preservation missions of the Butterfly Pavilion to the position."

Tennyson is the third president and CEO of the Butterfly Pavilion since it's opening in 1995. Tennyson has been involved in environmental education since 1989. Early in his career he spent over five years as an Interpretive Naturalist and six years in youth and adult education program development. For the past 13 years, Tennyson's focus has been in professional management and organizational leadership. The last nine of those years have been devoted to overseeing the direction of both the Education department as well as operations as Education Director and deputy CEO at the Butterfly Pavilion.

Patrick has a master's degree in Non-Profit Management from Regis University and a bachelor's degree in Biology with a Zoology emphasis, and a minor in Chemistry from Metropolitan State College.

He also has an advanced knowledge of Freshwater Aquatic Entomology, and participated in a one-month biodiversity study abroad. He is actively involved with several environmental conservation

awareness groups. He served on the board as of Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) for over eight years, including a two-year term as Board President. Most recently he has participated in the development of the Broomfield Sustainability Plan as a member of the Broomfield Sustainability Task Force. He presently is serving a four-year term on the Broomfield Open Space's Advisory Council.

"While I have been working to further enhance our educational impact for a great number of years as Director of Education and deputy CEO, I now look forward to this new role with excitement and tremendous opportunity," said Tennyson. "It is my primary goal to increase interaction with stakeholders, businesses and community leaders to improve the understanding of the Butterfly Pavilion's immense potential."

Tennyson will lead a newly formed executive team comprised of Jenifer Doane, Vice President of Resource Development; Mary Ann Hamilton, Vice President of Science and Conservation; and Nicole Bickford, Vice President of Programs and Exhibits. Tennyson will also work closely with the Butterfly Pavilion Board of Directors, as well as oversee daily operations of the Butterfly Pavilion. He will also be responsible for the Pavilion's \$2.6 million budget funded in part by the Science and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

"It will be my every intention that a deep sense of commitment and unwavering integrity resonates in all [the Butterfly Pavilion's] endeavors and that the visitor experience is of paramount importance," said Tennyson.

The Butterfly Pavilion, founded in 1995, is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit stand-alone invertebrate zoo and is dedicated to fostering an appreciation of butterflies and other invertebrates while educating the public about the need for conservation of threatened habitats in the tropics and around the world. With butterflies purchased from farmers in the tropics, the Butterfly Pavilion supports sustainable agriculture in rainforests worldwide preventing deforestation and habitat loss. The Butterfly Pavilion features five immersive exhibits, including a rainforest filled with 1,600 free-flying tropical butterflies. The educational attraction provides youth education programs, volunteer opportunities and lifelong learning experiences. The Butterfly Pavilion is located on an 11-acre campus just 15 minutes from downtown Denver in Westminster. In its 15 years of operation the Butterfly Pavilion has served over three million visitors.

For more information about the Butterfly Pavilion, visit www.butterflies.org. Butterflies are just the beginning.