



Willamette Heritage Center *at The Mill* Announces New Interim Executive Director

For Immediate Release

The Board of Directors of the Willamette Heritage Center *at The Mill* (WHC) is pleased to announce its new interim Executive Director, John R. Hawkins, effective January 2013. Executive Director Peter M. Booth has accepted a position as executive director of the Museum of Western Colorado in Grand Junction and will be leaving the WHC after four and a half years of service.

John is currently a Partner in Personal Chronicles, helping clients write their life stories. Prior, he was the Executive Director of the College Foundation and Director of College Advancement for Chemeketa Community College from October 1993 to August 2008. He was responsible for the administration of non-profit corporation and public relations department to advance educational experiences for students, staff and community. During this time, the foundation raised about \$9 million. John is a strong community leader and currently serves as a member of the Association of Personal Historians and the Steering Committee of Leave a Legacy of the Mid-Willamette Valley. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington.

"We are fortunate that John has agreed to serve the WHC in the role of interim executive director. John has a wealth of management and non-profit experience and is very well respected in the Salem community. John will be able to help guide the programs that are already in progress, and will help with the search process for a permanent executive director. A national search for the permanent executive director will begin in January," said Board of Directors President Ross Stout."

For additional information, please contact Peter Booth, Executive Director of the WHC, at 503-585-7012 or peterb@willametteheritage.org.

The Willamette Heritage Center *at The Mill*, a unification between Mission Mill Museum and Marion County Historical Society, is a stroll through the history of the Willamette Valley. Its 5-acre campus is home to the 1841 Jason Lee house (arguably the oldest wooden framed house in Oregon), 1841 Willamette Mission Parsonage, 1847 John Boon home, 1858 Pleasant Grove Church and the 1896 Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, named an *American Treasure* by the National Park Service. Since its founding in 1964 as a private non-profit association, Mission Mill Museum has established a reputation as a leader in the preservation and interpretation of Oregon's history. The museum's histories are shared with visitors through daily and group tours, speakers, living history, children's programs, hands-on activities, special events, the museum store and rental facilities. For more information call 503-585-7012 or visit www.willametteheritage.org.

The Willamette Heritage Center is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is not managed by city, county, state or federal agencies.

Submitted by: Cheryl Clark, Aura Marketing, cclark@auramarketing.com ###