
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEADERSHIP TRANSITION ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MONTANA RACIAL EQUITY PROJECT

BOZEMAN, MT – The Board of Directors of The Montana Racial Equity Project (MTREP) has announced the retirement of its Founding Executive Director, Judith Heilman, effective June 30, 2022.

Since founding MTREP in 2015, Judith has led the organization through exponential growth with programming and projects that include countless community forums, community organizing efforts, workshops on bias, and consultation with nonprofits, for-profits, and foundations. Judith's tenure as Executive Director also saw the start of MTREP's Queer and Trans Youth of Color Project as well as a free monthly racial equity-focused book club and four annual conferences, most recently held in 2019 with Dr. Ibram X. Kendi as Keynote..

"Judith is a powerhouse full of unending knowledge and truth," said MTREP Board Chair Heidi Jones-Magee, "Although she will no longer be at the helm, leading the very important work of racial and social justice and equity for BIPOC and LBGTQ communities of Montana, Judith will remain a force and a light that can never be overshadowed by darkness, and we honor her for her work."

Over the last several years, the role of MTREP has never been more critical in giving Black and Indigenous communities and communities of color the opportunity to

thrive for the benefit of not just their own families, but for all Montanans and their descendants.

“Founding and guiding The Montana Racial Equity Project over the last seven years has been the highlight of my many-faceted career in public service. Now it is time for me to rest, relax, and be more mindful of my mental health after these years of service in a very tough profession. I look forward to turning over the MTREP leadership to someone with fresh energy, eyes, and ideas. While I will miss all the terrific people I have met while stewarding MTREP, please know that I’ll still be “in the mix” in Bozeman and throughout the state; the public service aspect of me is a deeply personal commitment. I thank my staff and you all for your hard and ongoing work to eliminate racism, bigotry, and prejudice whenever, however, and wherever encountered. Best wishes to you all.”

The Board of Directors will oversee the process to appoint Judith’s successor, supported by national consulting firm Morten Group, LLC, which has worked with MTREP since 2017. Morten Group President Mary F. Morten will serve as Interim Executive Director, where she will be working with staff to prepare the organization for its new leader.

The Board will host an event to honor Judith and celebrate her accomplishments in Montana and at MTREP in late August. More information on this event will be made available in the coming weeks.

ABOUT THE MONTANA RACIAL EQUITY PROJECT

The Montana Racial Equity Project, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization, advocates equity and justice for historically marginalized, disenfranchised, and oppressed peoples in Montana. They educate, train, and activate organizers, individuals, groups, organizations, institutions, and businesses to invest in interrupting racism, bigotry, and prejudice whenever encountered.

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