



PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP OF WHALES AND THE SALISH SEA ECOSYSTEM THROUGH EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Whale Museum Announces Transition in Leadership

Friday Harbor, Wash. – The Whale Museum is pleased to announce a new leadership structure as its Executive Director, Jenny Atkinson, steps down from her position to pursue other interests. This transition marks a pivotal moment in the organization's journey as multiple leadership roles are created.

Atkinson has played a significant role in steering The Whale Museum towards its mission of promoting stewardship of whales and the Salish Sea ecosystem. Under her 17.5 years of leadership, the museum has achieved significant financial milestones and expanded its long-standing programs. The museum thanks her for her years of dedication and for caring so deeply about the Southern Resident killer whales.

Moving forward, The Whale Museum is pleased to promote Jennifer Smith from Finance and Operations Manager to Finance and Operations Director, Tracie Merrill from Education Curator to Education Director, Jess Farrer from Stranding Network Coordinator to Research Director, and Grace Leary from Store and Museum Manager to Museum Curator. Board President Rich Osborne, PhD will be Acting Executive Director until that position is filled. The collaborative leadership aims to expand the museum's current programs, work closely with the community and other local organizations and to carry on the museum's mission with renewed energy.

The Whale Museum remains committed to its mission of promoting stewardship of whales and the Salish Sea ecosystem through education and research. With the support of its dedicated staff, volunteers, members and supporters, the museum looks forward to a bright and sustainable future under its new leadership structure.

Staff members can be contacted directly through the museum's contact page at whalemuseum.org.

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