Subject: Announcing New Dean of the Warner College of Natural Resources
May 23, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

It is my privilege to share with you that Dr. A. Alonso Aguirre has been selected as the new Dean of Warner College of Natural Resources (WCNR). Dr. Aguirre joins us from George Mason University where he has served as Professor and Chair of the Environmental Science and Policy Department. He will begin his appointment at CSU on July 18, 2022.

Dr. Aguirre will be stepping into his new leadership role with significant familiarity with our institution as a two-time CSU alumnus. He received his M.S. in Wildlife Biology and Preventive Medicine from CSU in 1987 followed by his Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology and Protected Area Management in 1990. He has been a longtime member of our extended Ram family. Dr. Aguirre was awarded the distinguished Alumnus Award from the WCNR in 2014. Dr. Aguirre works at the science-policy interface and integrates disciplines to advance the theory and practice of conservation biology and the biomedical sciences.

While at Mason, Dr. Aguirre also served as Chair of the Institutional Animal Use and Care Committee, and as head of an academic and research program using the One Health/Planetary Health approaches to understanding wildlife diseases and their links to human health. He co-founded the emerging discipline of Conservation Medicine, the journal EcoHealth and the International Association of Ecology and Health, under the tenet “health connects all species in the planet.”

Dr. Aguirre is a member of the Board of Life Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences and was appointed to the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. He has advised governments of countries in the Americas, Asia, and Western Europe, and briefed the U.S. Congress on many health and ecological issues linked to anthropogenic change.

I would like to close with words of gratitude for Dean John Hayes for his outstanding service to CSU and the Warner College of Natural Resources. He has been a strategic, compassionate steward for the college and a trusted advocate for the well-being of its faculty, staff, and students. I also would like to give my profound thanks to the search committee and Deans Ben Withers and Mary Stromberger, who served as search committee co-chairs for this highly engaged and successful search.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Aguirre back home to CSU. We are thrilled to have him here and know he will achieve great things as Dean.

Sincerely,

Mary Pedersen

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