



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village Hires New Education Director

Salem, OR—Sylvia Halsey joins A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village as Director of Education after several years in what she describes as “places you would only see on a *National Geographic* special.” From the Bering Sea, to the Aleutian Islands, to the *Nikolski*, the oldest known continuous community, Halsey worked as Special Education /Migrant Education Programs Manager for Alaska's only education service district.

Halsey brings her sense of adventure and passion for art-based science education to the Village, where she will oversee the arts, science, and humanities programming both at the children's museum and in outreach and after-school programs that serve over 20,000 students throughout the mid-Willamette Valley.

She holds a master's degree in Education Administration and Leadership from the University of Oregon and a bachelor's degree in Science Education from Southern Oregon University. Her experience in educational leadership, teacher trainings, and as a speaker and chairperson at national educational conferences will enhance her role at the Village. Halsey taught science for 12 years and received the State of Oregon Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching in 1996.

Halsey's work in Alaska cultivated an interest in infant learning programs, brain research for learners, and the use of children's literature to teach complex subjects. She is fascinated by

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the ways children demonstrate knowledge, particularly in cases of disability or autism. Accepting the position as director at the Village, with its mission to educate children through hands-on, interactive exhibits and classes, aligned naturally with her past experience and current goals, she explains.

“I recognize and embrace the power of partnerships, collaboration, and think tanks to solve complex problems,” says Halsey. She has demonstrated this most notably in her book, *Critic to Coach*, an illustrated collaboration between herself and a student. Halsey’s creative approach to educational opportunities is a welcome addition to A.C. Gilbert’s Discovery Village, which actively seeks new ways to reach all youth with the joy of learning.

A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village is a private nonprofit children's museum located in downtown Salem's Riverfront Park. Founded in 1989, A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village provides innovative and stimulating educational experiences that spark children's natural curiosity. The Village's mission is to provoke curiosity, inspire awe, foster enjoyment, encourage learning, and enable understanding in all youth.

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