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Lisa Ellis Chosen to Lead Santa Fe Council on International Relations

Santa Fe, NM – Lisa Ellis, a global strategic communications, fundraising and non-profit leader, has been appointed by the Board of Directors of the Santa Fe Council on International Relations as the organization’s new Executive Director. Ellis will join SFCIR on February 22, 2022, succeeding Interim Director James Falk.

Ellis has served in leadership roles in the United States and some 40 countries. She has dedicated her career to strengthening democratic institutions, nurturing a free media, supporting international exchanges, educating young leaders, and building healthy and resilient communities.

“The global knowledge Ms. Ellis brings to this position, coupled with her expertise in communications, philanthropy, and education will accelerate our growth in memberships, programming, partnerships, and funding,” says Ambassador Mark L. Asquino, President of SFCIR’s Board of Directors. “We are pleased to welcome this highly experienced non-profit leader.”

“I am honored and excited to lead the SFCIR in its work to educate, engage, and empower New Mexicans, international visitors, and students, as informed global citizens,” says Ellis. “Working together with the Council’s dedicated Board of Directors, staff, and partners, we can promote dialogue, bridge diverse points of view, and drive positive change towards a fairer and more equitable world.”

ABOUT LISA A. ELLIS

Ellis, a Santa Fe-based senior strategic communications, international affairs, education, and resource development consultant, has for decades worked with non-profit organizations to advance global health, education, human rights, press freedom, international development, and environmental justice.

Prior to her more recent work as a consultant, Ellis was the Marketing and Communications Director for TIDES, a non-profit and philanthropic organization dedicated to the advancement of shared prosperity and social justice.

Ellis served as Director of Global Communications for International Medical Corps, a humanitarian first responder, providing emergency relief, health care, and training on the front lines of global crises.

As Program Director for the International Center for Journalists, she promoted worldwide journalism education and training programs on topics ranging from covering ethnic and religious conflict in the Middle East and North Africa to health issues in Africa and Asia.

Ellis also has worked in higher education at Colorado College, for the International Center for Journalists, and for The Freedom Forum, and in public diplomacy at the U.S. Information Agency (Central and Eastern Europe), at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, for Voice of America, and at the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies.

Ellis earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Russian Area Studies from Colorado College and a Master's degree in Journalism from the University of Maryland.

She has worked in dozens of countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and the Middle East.

ABOUT THE COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Santa Fe Council on International Relations connects New Mexico and the world by engaging and inspiring global citizens through dialogue, education, and cross-cultural exchange. We promote an in-depth understanding of globalization and U.S. foreign policy through community and high school/college education programs. We envision a community in which New Mexicans, through cross-cultural exchange, engagement, and education, act as global citizens, applying a firm knowledge of global economics, politics, cultures, and leaders for the betterment of Santa Fe, New Mexico, the United States, and the globe. The Council is a member of the World Affairs Councils of America and Global Ties US.

Through our partnership with the U.S. State Department, we welcomed more than 400 international visitors to northern New Mexico in 2019 (pre-COVID) and continue to welcome them virtually, via Zoom. We connect ideas with action, with a membership of engaged persons seeking insight into these complex times, including global travelers, former ambassadors, foreign service officers, and executives.