

Neil Best, President and CEO of Community Radio for Northern Colorado, Announces Retirement After 47 Years with KUNC.

GREELEY, Colo., July 8, 2020 –Neil Best, President and CEO of Community Radio of Northern Colorado (CRNC), operator of NPR-affiliate KUNC and The Colorado Sound, today announced that he will retire on December 31st, 2020. Best began his career at KUNC as a weekend announcer in 1973 and served as News & Public Affairs Director and Program Director before becoming General Manager in 1993 and President/CEO in 2009.

Under Best's leadership, KUNC became an independent, community-licensed station in 2001, when a group of listeners formed The Friends of KUNC and raised \$2 million in 20 days to purchase the station's license from the University of Northern Colorado and preserve it as an independent alternative to Colorado Public Radio. Since leaving the university, KUNC spun off its diverse music discovery programming onto The Colorado Sound, a full-time music station, in 2016, and has built the largest newsroom in Northern Colorado in order to provide news and information 24-hours a day.

"It feels like I never have had to work a day in my life. I'm fortunate to come in each day and be part of an organization that values community and in turn is valued by the community," Best says.

Best currently serves as the President of Western States Public Radio and is a member of the Colorado Humanities Board of Directors. He has served on various advisory committees for NPR, and on the board of directors of Public Radio Program Directors, Inc., the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's Next Generation Project and Program Review Panel. Best received the William H. Kling Award for Innovation and Entrepreneurship from Public Radio International in 2001.

He has also been active in the Greeley community for over 40 years serving on the board of directors of the Greeley Boys and Girls Club, the Boys and Girls Club of Greeley Foundation, the Weld Library Board, Executive Vice Chair and Loaned Executive for the United Way of Weld County campaign, Greeley Rotary Club Board of Directors and Program Chair, President of the Greeley Independence Stampede Wranglers, Union Colony Civic Center advisory board, public relations director for the Colorado Farm Show, and the Diaconate Board of the First Congregational Church.

CRNC Board Chair Bill Kurtz said "Neil has been an incredible leader of KUNC for decades. He has dedicated his entire career to KUNC and leaves it with record levels of listenership, membership and a strong financial position. There are no words that can thank Neil Best enough for all he has done for Community Radio for Northern Colorado and the community of listeners in the region. The Board of Directors has established a search committee that will do a nationwide search for a new President/CEO. These will

be big shoes to fill, but Neil leaves the organization in a great position to continue to grow and thrive.”

About CRNC

Community Radio for Northern Colorado operates KUNC, Northern Colorado’s NPR affiliate, and The Colorado Sound, a 24-hour music discovery station. KUNC carries news, information and storytelling 24-hours a day, heard on a network of 19 stations and translators around the state—including 91.5 FM along the Front Range, 102.7 FM in Boulder, and 91.7 FM in Golden and the west metro area. Other broadcast areas served include Breckenridge, Buena Vista, Estes Park, Grand County, Haxtun/Holyoke, Julesburg/Ovid, Leadville, Morgan County, North Park, Salida, Steamboat Springs, Sterling, Vail/Minturn & Eagle Valley, Wray, and Yuma, and can be streamed anywhere at kunc.org or via mobile app.

The Colorado Sound is heard at 105.5 FM along the Front Range, 94.3 FM in Summit County, and 88.9 FM in Steamboat Springs, as well as via mobile app and at coloradosound.org.

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