



WOLFE'S NECK CENTER

FOR AGRICULTURE & THE ENVIRONMENT

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November 30, 2023

To the Wolfe's Neck Center community,

With the support and encouragement from our Board of Directors, I have decided to take a six-month sabbatical from January to June 2024. During this time, my trusted colleague Jeannie Mattson will serve as Interim Executive Director.

In 2012, I became executive director of what was then Wolfe's Neck Farm Foundation. Now, 12 years later, I am exceedingly proud of the extraordinary work we have accomplished together. Just this year we have completed a significant set of milestones, including finalizing our three-year strategic framework that will guide our work from 2024 to 2026; the initial implementation of ACTION, our USDA partnership; and of course, the opening of the Smith Center for Education and Research.

And yet, it has become clear that taking an extended break from my leadership duties will best serve both the organization and me in my capacity to lead Wolfe's Neck Center further into the future. At this point in my career, I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to reflect, gain new perspectives and continue my professional development. I am especially excited to use this time to gather new energy and ideas that will help lead Wolfe's Neck Center through our next chapter. As a key part of this sabbatical, I plan on visiting and learning from a diverse array of people and places doing important work in the farming and food sectors. These experiences will expand my perspective on the role an organization like ours can—and must—play amid an age of such rapid social, technological, and environmental transformation.

My confidence in taking this leave is buoyed by our leadership and Board of Directors, who have been working together closely in preparation for this period. Jeannie is in her 10th year at Wolfe's Neck Center and is beloved by our entire community. With her extensive institutional knowledge and unwavering dedication to our mission, Jeannie is well positioned to lead the organization forward in the coming months.

I also want to give a special acknowledgement to our current Wolfe's Neck Center team. The Board of Directors and I feel confident about my stepping away at this moment because of our strong, talented staff. Their commitment, skill, and thoughtfulness shine in the progress we have made together over the past several years. It is particularly fitting that in moving forward, we are implementing a sabbatical policy that will provide an opportunity for long-time members of the staff to take time for wellness, learning, and regeneration.

I'm deeply grateful to our community for being part of this journey that has brought us to this moment.

With gratitude,

Transforming our relationship with farming and food for a healthier planet

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