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Agricenter International Hires First Director of Communications

MEMPHIS, TN – John Charles Wilson, President of Agricenter International, has selected Christine Donhardt, ASLA to serve as Director of Communications. She is tasked with sharing the mission of the Agricenter with the public through outreach, event planning, grant writing, and fundraising.



Donhardt served for nearly 5 years in the Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability as its first Senior Planner. While there she wrote and received over \$415,000 in grants, served as project leader for the Low Impact Development design competition, led the effort for Memphis-Shelby County to receive a 4-STAR award for national excellence in sustainability, and hosted numerous conferences. Donhardt was appointed to the Collierville Design Review Commission, is an elected officer for the Tennessee Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (TNASLA), and serves on the National ASLA Historic American Landscapes Survey committee. She holds a Master of Landscape Architecture from University of Georgia and a B.S. Biology, *cum laude*, from Furman University. Donhardt begins her duties January 25th.

“I believe Christine, with her proven track record of communications and establishing partnerships, will further elevate the public profile of the Agricenter and we are excited to have her on the team,” said John Charles Wilson. Steve Shields, Chairman of the Board added, **“We look forward to her contributions to the Agricenter which has become an integral part of this community.”**

Agricenter International is the largest urban agricultural research and education facility in the region. For over 35 years, this self-sustaining, non-profit organization in Shelby County has facilitated agricultural research and educational programs, while promoting environmental conservation, natural area preservation and recreational opportunities. Agricenter is a hands-on showcase for how production agriculture provides a safe and abundant global food and fiber supply.

Each year, Agricenter hosts multiple educational sessions where more than 6,000 students from urban schools learn about sustainable agriculture and the importance of healthy eating. Many children who have never seen farm animals, row crops, open fields, forests or lakes can learn about them at the Agricenter. For more information visit www.agricenter.org or call 901-757-7777.

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