



**SUN VALLEY**  
**INSTITUTE FOR**  
**RESILIENCE**

**Sun Valley Institute for Resilience Welcomes Nate Twichell as New Executive Director to build on our Legacy of Influence and Leadership in Community Resilience**

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The Sun Valley Institute for Resilience announces the hiring of Nate Twichell as Executive Director to guide the organization forward to ensure that our community, economy, and ecosystems thrive.

Nate joined the Sun Valley Institute for Resilience team as Deputy Director in July of 2021. He has been instrumental in progressing the Impact Idaho Fund into a powerful new resource to provide patient, low-cost capital to build community resilience. Nate's professional background is in education and non-profit administration, most recently working as the Leader of Institutional Advancement at The Sage School.

"Sun Valley Institute for Resilience has shown over the last 2 years under the leadership of Lexie Praggasits that it is poised to deliver impact and resilience for the greater Wood River Valley with our signature programs and the Impact Idaho Fund. Going forward, we are looking to create a step change in our strategy with the appointment of Nate Twichell as the new strategic leader and Executive Director of SVIR," said Board Co-chair, Jeffrey Hogue.

Board co-chair Nina Tooley added, "Nate is an energized, engaged and motivated leader who will shape the next phase of the institute's impact in our amazing local community and beyond."

Nate will be stepping into the role after current Executive Director, Lexie Praggastis, stepped down due to family matters requiring her attention. Lexie assumed the Executive Director role in

mid-2020, guiding the organization through the pandemic, building on the organization's legacy, and leading the way on the launch of the Impact Idaho Fund.

Institute Founder, Aimée Christensen, said, "Lexie Praggastis took the helm of the Institute in a deeply challenging time and led with grace and expertise, guiding the organization through the pandemic and building the Impact Idaho Fund. She is a beloved, lifelong member of this community and her accessible, thoughtful, and effective leadership of the Institute will be sorely missed."

"I am honored to have served in the role of Executive Director and grateful to all the partners who have been a part of building resilience in our community. Nate is the ideal leader to build on the Institute's impact. I am confident that he and the Institute's team will continue take the work forward," said Lexie Praggastis.

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### **About the Impact Idaho Fund**

The Impact Idaho Fund (IIF) attracts and mobilizes mission-driven capital for innovative projects advancing community resilience in central and southern Idaho. Investments target the buildout of regenerative, renewable and sustainable practices related to food and farm, land, water and energy use. To date, funded projects including Itty Bitty Farms, Lookout Farm, and Wilder Spaces Farm have brought more nutrient-dense, locally-grown food to market and helped farmers conserve water during a time of exceptional drought. The Impact Idaho Fund is made possible through investment and donations made by the community. In December 2021, Sun Valley Institute for Resilience received a second transformational gift from The Heinz Family Foundation that supports ongoing fund administration and the financial and technical support offered by IIF staff to current and potential projects. The funding process and close working relationship between IIF staff and fund recipients is helping farmers to make sound financial decisions. For more information, please visit [sunvalleyinstitute.org/impactidahofund](https://sunvalleyinstitute.org/impactidahofund)

### **About Sun Valley Institute for Resilience**

The Impact Idaho Fund is a project of the Sun Valley Institute for Resilience (SVIR). SVIR is a catalyst for lasting quality of place, advancing economic, ecological and social resilience by pioneering transformative solutions from our home in central Idaho. We build social, economic and ecological resilience by connecting capital to community needs, fostering collaboration, raising awareness and serving as a catalyst for change. This history of advancing resilience allows SVIR to mobilize resources in the face of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Sun Valley Institute is dedicated to supporting our whole community and we are working to connect resources to the people who need them most. Please reach out by email or through our social media with any community needs that you are seeing. For more information, please visit: [www.sunvalleyinstitute.org](https://www.sunvalleyinstitute.org) and follow the institute on Instagram at @SunValleyInstitute and Facebook at [facebook.com/sunvalleyinstitute](https://facebook.com/sunvalleyinstitute).