



Rural Policy Research Institute

News Release

For Immediate Release –

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RUPRI Announces Senior Leadership Changes

April 5, 2010, Columbia, MO - The Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) today announced a major realignment in its senior leadership. Charles W. Fluharty, RUPRI Founder and current Vice President, Policy Programs, today becomes President and CEO, assuming responsibility for the creation and execution of the RUPRI strategic vision, the alignment of resources to implement the plan, external and internal communication, and all aspects the RUPRI public policy program. He will continue as a Transatlantic Fellow with the German Marshall Fund of the United States, providing leadership for GMF's comparative rural policy foci, and as a Research Professor in the Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri-Columbia. Fluharty will shortly be relocating to the RUPRI national office in Washington, D.C.

Brian Dabson, current President and CEO, will become Vice President and COO, and director of a new RUPRI venture, the RUPRI Rural Futures Lab. He will continue in his position as a Research Professor in the Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri-Columbia, and as chair of the RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship Board. The Lab will focus on, among other things, regional food systems, ecosystem services, climate change adaptation, and alternative energy, looked at through the lens of regional collaboration, equity, and innovation. "We are creating a vehicle for thinking about what's next for rural America, and for engaging exciting new practices and research from around the nation to inform public policy choices and investments over the next decade," said Dabson. The Lab will be formally launched sometime later in the year, after a period of research, consultation and preparation.

RUPRI also announced two important realignments of senior RUPRI leaders. Keith Mueller, Director of the RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy, Chair of the RUPRI Rural Health Panel, and Professor and Chair, Department of Health Services Research & Administration, University of Nebraska Medical Center, has accepted a position as Head of the Department of Health Management and Policy in the College of Public Health, University of Iowa, where he has also been named the Gerhard Hartman Professor. The Department includes a fifty-

The Rural Policy Research Institute provides objective analysis and facilitates public dialogue concerning the impacts of public policy on rural people and places.

year-old program in Health Administration, a concentration on health policy in the M.P.H. program, and a Ph.D. in Health Services and Policy. Two research centers there will be natural collaborators with RUPRI—the Center for Health Policy and Research, and the Public Policy Center. Mueller will assume his responsibilities at the University of Iowa on June 1, 2010, at which time the RUPRI Center and Panel will be housed there.

Finally, Mark Drabenstott, the former Director of the RUPRI Center for Regional Competitiveness, has been named Secretary General of the Global Coalition for Efficient Logistics (GCEL), a worldwide, non-profit organization based in Geneva, Switzerland. (www.gcel.net) GCEL is a public-private partnership that brings together leading firms, governments, and non-profit organizations to lower the cost of trade and trigger new economic developments around the world. As Secretary General, Drabenstott will be responsible for monitoring a major new global initiative to drive down the cost of trade, and for maximizing its global economic benefits.

“These changes offer tremendous new public service opportunities for each of us,” Fluharty said. “We feel certain these realignments will advance our commitment to rural policy innovation, both domestically and globally. Brian’s leadership as President over the past three years has added significantly to RUPRI’s breadth and stature, and we are very excited about the potential for the Rural Futures Lab. Keith’s national leadership in rural health research will only be enhanced by his new position in Iowa, and Mark’s new position will have global impact. RUPRI is very grateful for the public service commitment of these leaders, which has significantly advanced the prospects for rural people and places.”