



**MOUNT BEACON**  
**INCLINE RAILWAY**  
SINCE 1902

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Incline Railway Society Names First Chief Operating Officer**

(Beacon, NY) — The Mount Beacon Incline Railway Restoration Society today announced the appointment of Michael J. Colarusso as its first Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Colarusso is a recently retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel with more than two decades of operational, planning and leadership experience. A veteran of both Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom, his professional background includes a tour of duty as the Director of Operations and Plans for the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. The Academy, a top tier American college, is also a military training installation and community of approximately 15,000 students, faculty, soldiers, family members and civilian employees.

In addition to his experience as an operations officer, Colarusso is an American industrial-era historian who served as an Assistant Professor of History at the Academy, where he was recognized for teaching excellence in 2000. He continues to work with the Army as a human resource consultant to its Office of Economic and Manpower Analysis. In particular, he formulates policy recommendations in the area of talent management, and his writing in this field has been published by the Army War College's prestigious Strategic Studies Institute.

Colarusso is a certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, having successfully led business process improvement projects for the Army. This experience, in combination with his background as an operations officer, human resources consultant, and historian, suit him particularly well to directing the daily operations of the Incline Society.

Born and raised in Queens, New York, Colarusso received his undergraduate degree from St. John's University and his graduate degree from the Pennsylvania State University. He currently lives in Beacon, New York with his wife Lily, an author and journalist.

***About The Incline Society:*** The Mount Beacon Incline Railway Restoration Society, headquartered in the City of Beacon in Dutchess County, New York, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Historical Society registered with the New York State Education Department. It also holds a Provisional Charter issued by the New York State Board of Regents.

The Society's mission is to restore, operate and maintain the Incline Railway on North Beacon Mountain, in the City of Beacon, New York and the Town of Fishkill, New York. The Railway is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is an important part of American industrial, engineering, transportation and leisure history. It will serve as a living museum and centerpiece

asset in the restoration of the Mount Beacon summit as a scenic, historic and recreational resource. Press kits are available at: [www.inclinerailway.org/news\\_press\\_kit.htm](http://www.inclinerailway.org/news_press_kit.htm)