



MOUNT BEACON
INCLINE RAILWAY
SINCE 1902

For Immediate Release

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Incline Society Joins Environmental Consortium of Hudson Valley Colleges & Universities

(Beacon, NY) – The Mount Beacon Incline Railway Restoration Society was recently welcomed as an affiliate member of the Environmental Consortium of Hudson Valley Colleges & Universities, which is headquartered at Pace University’s Academy for Applied Environmental Studies. Consortium Director Michelle Land was “thrilled to add the [Incline] Society’s unique strengths to the Consortium’s membership.”

The mission of the Environmental Consortium’s 51 institutional and 11 affiliate members is to harness higher education’s intellectual and physical resources to advance regional, ecosystem-based environmental research, teaching, and learning through interdisciplinary, collaborative programs and information sharing. It does this by facilitating intensive cooperation among its regional colleges and universities and organizing inter-institutional collaboration among faculty. By channeling this extraordinary bank of intellect, talent and activism into innovative education and public service, the Consortium advances understanding of the cultural, social, political, economic and natural factors affecting the Hudson River Watershed.

Partnering with other educators is a centerpiece goal of the Incline Society. “Since our inception, education has always been at our core,” said Society President and CEO Anne Lynch. “We’re more than a historical society, more than stewards of a National Historic Register property. We’re educators, striving to engender an appreciation for our national *and* natural heritage, to help create the next generation of environmentally concerned and responsible citizens. We hope that membership in the Consortium, alongside such distinguished institutions as Pace University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Columbia University, Clearwater and the Beacon Institute, signals both our commitment in this area and our potential to contribute.”

That potential is significant. The upper terminus of a restored incline railway, at 1,540 feet, will afford students a wonderful place-based educational experience. Visitors enjoy breathtaking views of the Hudson River watershed for up to 75-miles in all directions. Mount Beacon is also situated at the confluence of the Hudson River and the Fishkill Creek, a major tributary, and its hiking trails provide access to some of the 60% of the Hudson River basin that is forested. It is the ideal classroom without walls.

“While we envision focusing our environmental education programs primarily at the pre-college level,” said Mike Colarusso, the Incline Society’s Chief Operating Officer, “our museum and railway will provide tremendous active learning and field opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students in the areas of trail and land management, sustainable architecture and

environmental design, field-based curriculum design, environmentally focused art programs, environmental studies, watershed management, and more.”

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