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Carolyn Belardo, 215-299-1043, belardo@ansp.org

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ACADEMY ANNOUNCES NATIONAL SEARCH FOR NEW PRESIDENT

PHILADELPHIA—The Academy of Natural Sciences today announced a national search for a new leader to replace President and CEO William Y. Brown, who will leave early next year for the Woods Hole Research Center in Massachusetts.

Brown, head of the nation's oldest natural history museum since February 2007, will continue through late January and will remain on the Academy's Board of Trustees, the institution's governing body. Dr. Ted Daeschler, the Academy's vice president of systematic biology and library, will serve as acting president while a national search for a permanent successor takes place.

Brown will leave Philadelphia to become president and director of Woods Hole Research Center in Falmouth, Mass., effective Feb. 1. He replaces John Holdren, who left early this year to become the science advisor to President Obama. Woods Hole is an independent, nonprofit institute focused on environmental science, education and public policy. Woods Hole currently plays a leading role in understanding the global ecological impacts of climate change and the role of forests and other ecosystems in mitigating impacts.

"It is a great honor for me to serve as president of the Academy of Natural Sciences," Brown said in a statement to staff. "The Academy is such an extraordinary institution with a long history of cutting-edge research, exploration and discovery. Our educational programs and exhibits have served generations of families and they will continue to enrich the lives of visitors for generations to come."

Brown oversaw a major turnaround in public operations of the museum and a long-range planning process aimed at renovating the 1876 building located in the heart of Philadelphia's Parkway Museums District. His tenure was marked by a heavy focus on fundraising, the creation of the Asia Center, and the hiring of key personnel including a botany curator and an archivist.

James Macaleer, Academy board chairman, also announced the formation of a search committee, which he will lead, to find the next president "as soon as possible."

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“While we are disappointed that Bill will be leaving us, we are grateful for his service to the Academy during the past three years and all that the Academy has accomplished under his leadership,” Macaleer said. “That includes putting together a strong senior management team that will, along with all Academy staff, continue to further our goals and complete many of the initiatives that have been set in motion during Bill's tenure.”

During the search process, Daeschler (DESH ler) will oversee the ongoing work of the public portion of the museum, the superb Ewell Sale Stewart Library, worldwide research programs in biodiversity and aquatic ecology, and the Center for Environmental Policy. He joined the Academy in 1987 as a research collections manager, became a research curator in 1998, and assumed his post as vice president for systematic biology and library in 2008. Daeschler, of Wyndmoor, Montgomery County, is well known in the scientific community for a series of fossil discoveries in both Pennsylvania and the Canadian Arctic. His most recent discovery was that of a 375-million-year-old species, *Tiktaalik roseae*, an intermediate creature in the transition from lobe-finned fishes to the earliest limbed animals.

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The Academy of Natural Sciences, founded in 1812, is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.

HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. ADMISSION: \$12 adults; \$10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, and military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies!