



ECUMENICAL PROJECT FOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HUMAN RIGHTS
PROMOTING PEACE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Golden, COLORADO

Leadership Transition Underway for Colorado-based International Nonprofit, the Ecumenical Project for International Cooperation (EPIC)

After 25 years of visionary and devoted leadership of EPIC, the Ecumenical Project for International Cooperation, Paul and Mary McKay are passing the Executive Directorship to Barry Bartel of Golden, Colorado. The McKays will continue to serve as EPIC Representatives for programs in Guatemala.

EPIC Board of Directors Chairwoman Cathy Egan, M.D., of Ft. Collins, Colorado, announced that Bartel begins as Executive Director on May 1, 2018; “Barry brings extensive expertise in organizational and board leadership along with the heart and passion for grassroots international development. We are forever grateful to Paul and Mary McKay for their innovative direction, expansion and strengthening of EPICs work. We are thrilled to have all three fantastic leaders involved now -- with Barry's unique skill set as our new EPIC Executive Director and with Paul and Mary McKay continuing their involvement in program management roles.”

EPIC, the Ecumenical Project for International Cooperation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1977 which today supports more than 30 community development projects in seven countries. EPIC works in partnership with local organizations to promote regenerative organic agriculture, environmental protection, family health and nutrition, human rights and peace with an emphasis on working with women, youth and indigenous people. All EPIC projects include a focus on local capacity and leadership building, interface between research and action, cooperation with other organizations, achieving tangible results from an innovative approach that is replicated and adapted by similar communities. See www.epicprojects.org/ for more information.

Bartel and his wife, Brenda, served with Mennonite Central Committee in Haiti from 1985-1988 and in Bolivia from 1998-2003. He served as president of Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas from 2006-2009. Between and after those experiences, Bartel practiced law in Denver, Colorado. Bartel grew up in eastern Colorado and graduated from Bethel College in 1984 with majors in Mathematics, Bible and Religion, and Peace Studies. He earned a Juris Doctor and a Certificate in Dispute Resolution from Willamette University College of Law in 1991.

“I am pleased that the McKays will continue to serve an integral role with EPIC, relating with program partners in Central America,” said Bartel. “Their compassionate energy and enduring commitment to transforming lives is incredible and is a wonderful model.” Barry began work with EPIC as Associate Executive Director in August, 2017 to ensure a smooth transition. He now will lead EPIC from his home west of Denver with extensive travel to visit supporters, donors and program partners.

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