

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Leader at LeDuc Historic Estate

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The Dakota County Historical Society is very pleased to announce the hiring of Jessica Bierbrauer as the new LeDuc Site Manager. Ms. Bierbrauer has more than a decade of interpretive programming and event experience, particularly environmental education. Her previous positions have included nine years as a naturalist at Carpenter Nature Center and two years at the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center where she delivered educational programming across the country.

Jessica Bierbrauer, LeDuc Site Manager, Dakota County Historical Society - "I am delighted to have the opportunity to work for a great organization with a strong team of staff and extremely dedicated volunteers. Working together, they have created a fantastic foundation of programming that adds value to the Hastings community and surrounding area, and I am thrilled to be a part of it."

Chad Roberts, Executive Director, Dakota County Historical Society - "Jessica brings the Society a wealth of experience in programming, the cornerstone of our LeDuc Historic Estate operation. With her fresh perspective and leadership, LeDuc programming and role as a treasured community resource will continue to grow."

The future of the LeDuc site includes continued growth and improvement in programs, particularly those available to students, educators and families. The Estate is also seeing increased use a community resource, a trend that is encouraged and supported by the Society and the LeDuc team.

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LeDuc Historic Estate

Built between 1862 and 1866, the LeDuc Historic Estate is one of the finest examples of acclaimed 19th century landscape designer Andrew Jackson Downing's residential work. The Gothic-Revival stone mansion, ice house and carriage barn were built by William and Mary LeDuc, prominent figures in Minnesota's early years as a territory and state. William LeDuc was a Civil War Quartermaster, lawyer, businessman and Commissioner of Agriculture under President Rutherford B. Hayes.

The Dakota County Historical Society (DCHS) has been collecting, preserving and presenting the history of Dakota County since 1939. DCHS operates the Lawshe Memorial Museum and research library in South St. Paul as well as the LeDuc Historic Estate in Hastings. The Lawshe Memorial Museum has over 3,000 square feet of exhibit space and houses a collection of more than 30,000 artifacts. DCHS also operates one of the best equipped local history research libraries in the state at the Lawshe Museum. Researchers can utilize DCHS resources in person or via web-based databases and website. The LeDuc Historic Estate is a 15-room, National Register Gothic Revival mansion DCHS operates on behalf of the City of Hastings.

For more information, see website: www.dakotahistory.org or contact us at: Dakota County Historical Society, 130 Third Avenue North, South St. Paul, MN 55075, 651.552.7548; dakotahistory@co.dakota.mn.us

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