

For Immediate Release

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Elio Agostini

A New Executive Director for the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation

The Board of Directors of the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation is pleased to announce the hiring of Elio Agostini as the organization's new Executive Director.

Mr. Agostini is a former CEO in the newspaper and publishing industry. For 35 years he worked as a “trouble shooter,” fixing up failing newspapers. He worked for many of the largest newspaper corporations in America and Canada. During that time he was a publisher of seven different daily newspapers and suburban weeklies.

Most recently, Mr. Agostini was president and partner of a \$40 million suburban printing and publishing firm in the Seattle area. He has served on over 30 community and public service boards.

“Elio comes to us with an amazing professional background, and the precisely the skills we were looking for to strengthen the ‘foundation under the Foundation’,” stated Board President Larry Nelson.

“After a long and productive career in publishing, Elio has reached a point in his life where he wants to work for and contribute to the community in which he lives, and he feels the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation is a good match for his talent and experience. We happen to agree with him.”

Mr. Agostini has visited Walla Walla on numerous occasions, and has grown to love the area.

“The spirit of cooperation and warmth of the people is what drew me to this opportunity,” said Mr. Agostini.

Mr. Agostini begins work almost immediately. He will meet with the staff of the Washington State Main Street program in Olympia this week, and will travel to Walla Walla part-time in the next few weeks. He will be here full time beginning August 15th.

The new Executive Director will arrive just as Events & PR Manager Jennifer Dilworth Northam and Program Assistant Rossi Giard put the finishing touches on their new office space at 2 S. 1st, upstairs in the Beehive Building.

“We are thrilled to have someone of Elio’s caliber leading this organization,” commented Ms. Northam. “His knowledge of organizations, his experience sizing up issues quickly in a wide variety of communities, and his collaborative leadership style will all benefit the Foundation almost immediately.”

The Downtown Walla Walla Foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting the history, culture and commerce of Downtown Walla Walla. More information can be found online at www.downtownwallawalla.com, or by calling the Foundation office at 529-8755