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Press Release

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For Immediate Release:

Adirondack Park Institute Recognizes Rockefeller Institute/Adirondack Wild



Award recipients - left to right: Dan Plumley (AW), Dave Gibson (AW), Bob Bullock (RI), and Ken Rimany (AW). Photo by Dan Fitts

The Rockefeller Institute of Government, the public policy research arm of the State University of New York, and Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve, a wild lands advocacy and educational not-for-profit, have received the 2015 Frank Hutchins Adirondack Environmental Education Leadership Award from the Adirondack Park Institute. This award was created by the Adirondack Park Institute to honor and recognize exceptional leadership in fostering educational programs and experiences as a foundation for stewardship of the Adirondack Park's natural resources and sustainable communities.

In 2014, the Rockefeller Institute and Adirondack Wild joined forces to create a year-long educational campaign with community colleges, and public and private colleges and universities throughout the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves to draw attention to the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act of 1964, federal legislation largely patterned after the "Forever

Wild" Clause of the NYS Constitution. During this period, these two organizations created films, lectures, classes, outings, concerts and other public programs for students and citizens of all ages that drew attention to the need for wilderness preservation and celebrated this piece of landmark legislation, inspired by New York's leading and historic environmental actions.

"We are very grateful to the Adirondack Park Institute for this great honor. The year 2014 represented a wonderful opportunity to team up with our colleagues at Adirondack Wild to showcase New York's inspirational role in the creation of the federal Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964. From the Catskill Forest Preserve to the Adirondack Park, throughout the year, we were thrilled to see the next generation of wilderness stewards and those already committed come together to re-commit to our natural world. We thank our participating campuses from the SUNY System and participating private colleges and universities for their tireless efforts that made this celebration so meaningful. We hope that this effort serves as a further catalyst for wilderness preservation for the future," stated Robert E. Bullock, deputy director for operations for the Rockefeller Institute, a leader of the year-long commemoration.

David H. Gibson, Adirondack Wild Partner said, "We thank the Adirondack Park Institute for its recent recognition. The Wilderness 50th anniversary of 2014 reminds us that every generation must actively engage with America's wild landscapes. The laws and management protective of wilderness in our country and in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve are not self-executing. They require an aware, informed, caring and vigilant constituency. Thanks to our wilderness partnership in New York State last year, we were able to reach many hundreds of young people with that message: Wilderness: Pass it On! "

Past recipients of the Hutchins Award include Betsy Lowe, for her work establishing the Wild Center in Tupper Lake; the Nature Conservancy for their community outreach in the Finch property purchase; and Neil Murphy, past-president of SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry, and John Mills, past-president of Paul Smith's College, for their collective leadership in keeping the Adirondack Visitor Interpretive Centers open. The Adirondack Park Institute is a not-for-profit based in Newcomb, NY, that raises funds to support environmental education programs throughout the Adirondacks.