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Carbondale Mayor Dan Richardson Named Chief Operating Officer of Ascendigo Autism Services

CARBONDALE, Colo. (April 19, 2018) — Ascendigo Autism Services, a nationally recognized autism service and outdoor recreation provider located in Carbondale, has appointed Dan Richardson as the organization’s new Chief Operating Officer. Richardson will also continue to serve as the Mayor of the Town of Carbondale, a position he has held since 2016.



“Dan is a proven business leader who is passionate about helping local communities thrive,” said Ascendigo President and CEO Peter Bell. “His vast experience in strategic planning, organizational development, and client services management will help take Ascendigo to the next level. Dan will be an excellent addition to our dedicated and passionate team.”

As Ascendigo’s COO, Richardson will work with other leaders in the organization to ramp up the capacity to take on new clients. He will also manage the organization’s increasing real estate and project development needs and oversee various systems improvements with a strong focus on advancing the organization’s mission and strategic goals. Ascendigo currently employs 32 full-time staff and more than 45 seasonal staff ranking it as one of the largest employers in the mid-Roaring Fork Valley.

Richardson brings over 24 years of experience in sustainability, budgeting, strategic planning, employee engagement, client service and project management. He most recently worked as Senior Consultant and Consulting Services Sector Leader for SGM, an Engineering, Consulting and Surveying firm based in Glenwood Springs. As SGM’s lead asset management consultant, he consulted with over 40 local governmental agencies and many private sector clients. Richardson has served on a number of community boards including the Glenwood Springs City Council, the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA), and the Waldorf School on the Roaring Fork. In 2010, he was selected by Colorado Biz magazine as one of Colorado’s “Top 25 Influential Young Professionals.”

“I’m thrilled at the opportunity to work with Ascendigo. I have been following its rapidly growing success for years and look forward to contributing to its model of helping people with autism thrive. Ascendigo’s programs are a win-win for its clients and the community and I’m honored to become part of the team.” said Richardson.

A native of Glenwood Springs, Richardson graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a Bachelor’s degree of Environmental Design in Architecture.

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About Ascendigo Autism Services

Ascendigo Autism Services is a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit organization based in Carbondale. Founded in 2004 as summer sports camp (formerly known as Extreme Sports Camp), Ascendigo has since expanded to offer year-round outdoor recreational options including winter sports, a comprehensive life and residential program for adults and behavioral therapies for children. Our goal is to integrate people with autism into community life recreationally and socially, whether through adventure sports, basic life skills, compatible employment in friendly companies, or community engagement. Ascendigo takes full advantage of the Colorado Rocky Mountains' unmatched natural facilities and the area's charitable community spirit to offer physical, experiential, and collaborative activities to individuals with autism. The Ascendigo approach allows those of any ability to succeed and serves as a model that can be replicated in other communities across the country. To learn more, please visit www.ascendigo.org and follow Ascendigo on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.