



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Welcome to CCHS, Sydney Ernst!

We are excited to welcome Sydney Ernst as the Pat and Ron Ferris Museum Director. With a background in anthropology, museum studies, and public engagement, Sydney is passionate about connecting people with local history. We look forward to seeing her vision come to life in our galleries!

Sydney grew up in Lancaster County and completed her undergraduate education in the Schreyer Honors College at Penn State, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and minors in Environmental Inquiry and Spanish. She later pursued a Master of Arts in Museum Studies at the University of Oklahoma. As a student, her experience focused on ecological anthropology, natural history, and historical museum collections. Sydney began her museum career in 2021 as a Museum Educator, leading tours and programs and igniting a passion for informal education.

Executive Director, Lindsay Varner, PhD, states, "We are thrilled to welcome Sydney to CCHS. After an extensive search, it became clear that she possesses the ability to bridge the gap between complex history and modern audience engagement. I am excited to see how she will breathe new life into our spaces, ensuring that every visitor—from the lifelong student to the first-time visitor—feels reflected and inspired by what they see in our galleries."

Sydney said, "I am honored to join the team at CCHS and dive into the history and cultures of Cumberland County. As a lifelong Pennsylvanian, I love how unique each county is, and I am looking forward to connecting with the area and encouraging others to get excited about local history. The Museum has an incredible collection that represents so many facets of Cumberland County, and I am eager to learn more about it alongside my Museum Collections Manager, Ciji Berry. I expect to learn a lot from my new colleagues and am thrilled to be a part of this institution."

About Cumberland County Historical Society

For 150 years, Cumberland County Historical Society (CCHS) has collected and shared the history of Cumberland County. Through education outreach, exhibitions, and public programming, CCHS engages the public by sharing the U.S.'s diverse history through the County's history. To learn more about CCHS and upcoming programming, visit www.historicalsociety.com.