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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO Mitchell B. Reiss to Step Down in October 2019

Search for Foundation's Next Leader Underway

Williamsburg, Va. (June 18, 2019) –The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation today announced that President and CEO **Mitchell B. Reiss** will be stepping down at the end of October. A search is underway for his successor, who will continue to build on Colonial Williamsburg's legacy as a world-class historic and cultural institution and on its mission to "feed the human spirit by sharing America's enduring story."

"I have immensely enjoyed my five years as the Foundation's President and CEO," said Reiss. "It's been a privilege to work every day with such talented and dedicated colleagues, and I am very proud of all that we have accomplished together."

Reiss added, "I especially want to thank all of the passionate donors, wonderful volunteers, and members of the community for their continuing support for the mission of this very special place. I believe that Colonial Williamsburg continues to have an important role to play in our rapidly changing world as a place that speaks to all who love freedom and who revere this country's founding ideals."

Thurston R. Moore, Chairman of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Board of Trustees, expressed his appreciation for Reiss's leadership over the past five years. "Mitchell has worked successfully to help Colonial Williamsburg navigate unprecedented cultural and technological shifts, building a record of solid accomplishment under his tenure. Among other things, he led us through a difficult but necessary organizational restructuring; improved our guest experience; invested in a diverse and inclusive workforce; and completed fundraising to expand and renovate the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg."

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Moore added, “By looking to our nation’s founding principles, which were developed here more than two centuries ago, Colonial Williamsburg can be a beacon in these rapidly changing times. Although it is going to require more hard work and creative thinking, everyone at Colonial Williamsburg is excited about the future. Our next president and CEO is going to have a tremendous opportunity to build on the important work that Mitchell and his team have accomplished. We’re confident that we will find a world-class leader to help us do so.”

Moore concluded, “On behalf of the Board of Trustees and all of Colonial Williamsburg, I want to thank Mitchell and Elisabeth Reiss for their dedication and service, and for helping to build a stronger Foundation.”

About The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

- Colonial Williamsburg operates the world’s largest living history museum, preserving Virginia’s 18th-century capital as a fully functioning city.
- Colonial Williamsburg hosts more than 500,000 ticketed guests per year, holds \$1.1 billion in assets, employs approximately 2,000 people and enjoys the support of nearly 1,000 volunteers and more than 100,000 annual donors.
- Fun, engaging experiences transport guests back in time and highlight the relevance of America’s founding era to contemporary life.
- The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 500 restored or reconstructed buildings, historic trade shops, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers.
- Other amenities include: lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 45 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center managed by Trilogy Spa, pools, retail stores and gardens.
- Philanthropic support and revenue from admission operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg’s educational programs and preservation initiatives. Learn more at www.colonialwilliamsburg.com

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