

Z. Smith Reynolds

F O U N D A T I O N

Dear Friend of ZSR,

I am writing to inform you that after 22 wonderful years at the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, I have accepted a new position with North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's Administration. My final day of work at ZSR will be February 5, and I will begin my new role on March 1.

It has been my great honor to serve the people of North Carolina during my tenure at ZSR. Serving as a steward of resources that can help North Carolinians be agents of change in their communities has been both humbling and rewarding. Having been born in the mountains of Macon County and raised in a small town in the Piedmont, the opportunity to work alongside and support fellow North Carolinians as they pursue their dreams has been a true privilege.

The philanthropic sector in NC is rapidly growing and changing, with several new foundations on the scene with financial assets that our state has not previously seen. Simultaneously, our state and nation continue to reckon with issues of racial injustice, democracy, climate justice, education and economic inequality in ways that now are overlaid with a pandemic and its repercussions. I've spent my entire career thus far focused on how ZSR could be a partner to address these and other issues. Moving forward, building partnerships will be central to my new role in state government, which will focus on connecting state government and philanthropy to strengthen our collective ability to improve the quality of life of the people of North Carolina.

I am excited to explore the possibilities that this new position presents, but it is difficult to imagine that my time at ZSR is coming to a close. As I depart ZSR, I carry with me the people I have met and the stories I have heard from thousands of site visits across this state – in living rooms and libraries, on farms and in forests. To work at ZSR is to be the beneficiary of a daily history and humanities lesson in North Carolina's past and present. I am deeply grateful for the stories and dreams you have shared with me about yourselves and your communities, and for the work we have been able to do together.

May our work together continue in new ways and may our paths cross often.

With deepest gratitude,

Joy Vermillion Heinsohn