

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CONFERENCE TO EXPLORE HOW TO INSPIRE CHILDREN
AND ADULTS TO CONNECT WITH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

LAS VEGAS - The growth and changing population in Southern Nevada can hinder the connection between people and their natural surroundings. With that issue in mind, the 2008 Our Places Tell Stories conference is being held to provide educators and others with the right tools to enhance that connection.

The conference will be held March 4-7, 2008 at the Springs Preserve in Las Vegas. The theme is "Education About the Environment: Designing With Our Communities." It is expected to attract participants who work at public lands, nature centers, museums, zoos, aquaria, and other attractions.

Sessions will feature regional and national experts who will present successful models and examples to help tell Nevada's stories. "These stories and how they are presented can be used to inspire children and adults to understand, value, and take care of the natural environment," said Allison Brody, program manager of the Conservation Education and Interpretation Strategy at UNLV's Public Lands Institute.

The keynote speaker is David Sobel, director of Teacher Certification Programs in the Education Department and director of the Center for Place-based Education at the Antioch New England Institute. Sobel's published books include "Beyond Ecophobia: Reclaiming the Heart in Nature Education" and "Place-based Education: Connecting Classrooms and Communities."

The idea for the conference was prompted by a unique partnership of federal, state, university, and public organizations to support professionals in creating effective education programs and interpretive media. It is funded by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act and delivered by the Public Lands Institute on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

The conference registration fee is \$85, with a daily fee of \$40 also available. For more information, call 895-5734 or visit <http://enviroedexchange.org/conference>.

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UNLV is a doctoral-degree granting institution with more than 28,000 students and approximately 3,300 faculty and staff. Founded in 1957, the university offers more than 220 undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees. UNLV is located on a 350-acre campus in dynamic Southern Nevada and is classified in the category of Research Universities (high research activity) by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.