



LEHIGH VALLEY **npr**® 93.9 FM Easton/Phillipsburg
COMMUNITY PUBLIC RADIO 93.7 FM Fogelsville/Trexlerstown

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

PHOTO ATTACHED

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**WDIY Names Interim Executive Director;
Bill Dautremont-Smith Assumes Role Wednesday**

(Lehigh Valley, PA) Charles James, president of the WDIY 88.1 FM Board of Directors, has announced that the board has named Dr. Bill Dautremont-Smith as the interim Executive Director, starting Wednesday, April 16. Dautremont-Smith, of Orefield, will work with Dennise Kowalczyk, current ED, until her departure on April 29 when he will take over as the interim ED. Kowalczyk announced her resignation April 4 to take a position in Gresham, OR. Dautremont-Smith will lead a national search expected to take several months for Kowalczyk’s permanent replacement, James said.

Dautremont-Smith, 57, a current member of the Board and chair of the Development & Outreach Committee, served as president of the Board from 2004-2006, when Kowalczyk was hired. He led the reorganization of the station’s management structure that resulted in the formation of the ED position. He has been an active volunteer with the station for the last five years and has served as on on-air host of several programs as well as on the board. He has stepped down from the Board in order to assume this position.

Dautremont-Smith, who holds a Ph.D in physics, retired from Lucent/Agere in 2003 after 24 years with the company, having served as the Chief Technical Officer of one of its fiber optic communications divisions. He has extensive experience in recruiting and leading large cross-functional teams. He currently is founder and principal of Dautremont-Smith Photonic Technologies Consulting and will continue his part-time consultancy.

“Bill’s dedication and experience on the WDIY board of directors, knowledge of staff and volunteers, as well as on-air programming and operations, make him a perfect individual to assume the helm until we complete a search for a permanent director,” said James.

Dautremont-Smith will lead a staff of seven, along with more than 150 community volunteers.

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“I’m honored and excited to be able to put my skills and management experience to use on behalf of WDIY, to work more closely with staff and volunteers for the next several months and to manage the search for the next permanent ED,” Dautremont-Smith said. “I also look forward to maintaining WDIY’s vibrant community outreach efforts and exploring new opportunities for station involvement.”

WDIY is a community public radio station, providing the Lehigh Valley with NPR news and locally produced public radio programs. The station is heard on WDIY 88.1 FM Allentown/Bethlehem, 93.7 FM Fogelsville/Trexlerstown, 93.9 FM Easton/Phillipsburg, and at www.wdiy.org. The LVCBA / WDIY 88.1 FM provides management support to WXLV 90.3 FM of Lehigh Carbon Community College.

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