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## Press Release

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For Immediate Release

# Sun Valley Forum Goes Virtual with New “Resilience Now Summer Series: Catalyzing Solutions for an Equitable Secure and Thriving World”

- *Sun Valley Institute announces first event of the new Sun Valley Forum Resilience Now Summer Series, Resilience Now: The Power of We*
- *Join the Institute at 3:30 PM on June 29th for a discussion between leaders from two distinct COVID-19 infection hot spots: Blaine County and New York City, moderated by writer, director, producer and actor Peter Horton*
- *The inaugural event will also feature an opening session with Forum partners and advisors discussing how they have met the challenges of 2020*
- *Christensen Global Strategies is the Host sponsor for the Sun Valley Forum Resilience Now Summer Series*

*Blaine County, Idaho* -- Join the Sun Valley Institute and special guests for a conversation critical to this moment on Monday June 29th at 3:30 PM. The conversation will view the current crisis through both a rural and urban health and wellbeing lens by bringing together two communities that at one point had the highest per capita COVID-19 infection rates in the nation: Blaine County and New York City. The discussion will seek out lessons on how *resilience* can take on new meaning and become part of a much-needed opportunity to build back better.

Moderated by writer/director/producer/actor Peter Horton, currently Director and Executive Producer of *New Amsterdam* on NBC, who uses his role in media to impact social change, the conversation will feature one of Blaine County's lead responders to the COVID crisis, Terry O'Connor, MD. O'Connor is a board-certified emergency physician and the Blaine County emergency medical services director. O'Connor will converse with Lisa Wing, R.N., head nurse of Bellevue Hospital in New York City.

Horton frames the conversation this way, “The word *resilience* takes on new meaning, significance and urgency in the time of COVID-19. We were not prepared for this pandemic. Why? What does that mean? What did that look like up close? What have we learned? Are we

better fortified now to deal with what comes next? These questions and more will be the subject of a conversation between two health care workers on the front lines of this battle.”

“Based on our calculations we believe 23% of Blaine co residents had COVID-19, one of the highest known rates of any small community in the world. As a tight-knit community, we responded well to slowing the spread of the disease, and were able to emerge with a very low number of fatalities thanks to those efforts.” explained O’Connor, “Going forward, our actions can be scaled to inform global solutions for a successful response to slowing the spread of the disease.”

Join us on June 29th: register online for the full day’s event at:

<https://organizer.runtheworld.today/c/juneresiliencenow>. The Local to Global Conversation will begin at 3:30 pm.

This year, the Institute turns the power of the Sun Valley Forum community to building solutions for our current interwoven crises. The *Resilience Now Summer Series* brings together the right cross-section of leaders and changemakers needed in this moment for our recovery and beyond. This work is critical. Though the Forum can’t convene in person, the redesigned virtual Forum series is the new platform to drive recovery, grow equity and opportunity, and catalyze innovation to help build back for a better future. Additional events will be held later in the summer, addressing well-being and our food system, and rebalancing the human relationship with nature.

The Sun Valley Forum is the signature event of the Sun Valley Institute, which was founded in 2015 with a bold mission to ensure a lasting quality of place by advancing solutions for economic, ecological and social resilience. The Institute provides strategic leadership for resilience, gathering our community to build plans, advising decision-makers on policies, regulations and programs, and supporting youth to grow their leadership in shaping their future.

To learn more about the Sun Valley Institute’s mission and programs, please visit [www.sunvalleyinstitute.org](http://www.sunvalleyinstitute.org) and to learn more about its specific COVID-19 recovery support, please visit [www.blainerecovery.org](http://www.blainerecovery.org)

### ***About the Sun Valley Institute***

*Five years ago, a combination of local and global threats matched by a vision of opportunity, led to the founding of the [Sun Valley Institute](http://www.sunvalleyinstitute.org). In the wake of the 2013 Beaver Creek Fire, widespread droughts, snowfall changes, high food prices and significant power outages due to our location at the edge of the grid, Sun Valley leaders founded SVI as a center for resilience, to turn our risks into opportunity. Over those five years, SVI has advanced resilience by convening the community to identify their greatest risks and opportunities, by developing specific projects to advance together, and by building programs to transform regional food and energy systems, two critical sectors for community resilience. This history of advancing resilience allows SVI to mobilize resources in the face of the current COVID-19 pandemic and is dedicated to supporting our whole community and we are working to connect resources to the people who need them.*

*Please reach out by email or through our social media with any community needs that you are seeing. For more information, please visit: [www.sunvalleyinstitute.org](http://www.sunvalleyinstitute.org) and follow the institute on Twitter @SunValleyInst and Instagram at @SunValleyInstitute and Facebook at [facebook.com/sunvalleyinstitute](https://facebook.com/sunvalleyinstitute)*