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Statement by UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity on the Loss of Leslie Rudd

Hartford, Conn. – The UConn Rudd Center is saddened to learn of the passing of Leslie Rudd, founder of The Rudd Foundation.

“Leslie Rudd was an entrepreneur who valued innovation, determination, and challenging the status quo. His values and foundational vision for the Rudd Center remain strongly embedded as core principles of our center’s work by conducting strategic research that intersects with public policy to maximize impact,” stated Marlene B. Schwartz, Rudd Center Director and Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at UConn.

Rebecca Puhl, Rudd Center Deputy Director and Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at UConn adds “Leslie Rudd was particularly passionate about addressing the societal problem of weight bias and discrimination. His support of research and advocacy to end weight bias has been crucial to this field of work, and instrumental in gaining attention of health professionals, educators, legal scholars and the media.”

The Rudd Foundation provided generous funding to establish the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity in 2005. In 2015, the Center moved to the University of Connecticut where its mission is to promote solutions to childhood obesity, poor diet, and weight stigma through research and policy.

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About the UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity

The Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity at the University of Connecticut is a multi-disciplinary center dedicated to promoting solutions to childhood obesity, poor diet, and weight bias through research and policy. The Rudd Center is a leader in building broad-based consensus to change diet and activity patterns by conducting research and educating policy makers. For more information, visit www.uconnruddcenter.org, follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/uconnruddcenter and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/uconnruddcenter.