

Greg Cumberland, President, Bent Creek Institute, Inc.

Mr. Cumberland is a co-founder of Bent Creek Institute, Inc. (BCI) based at The North Carolina Arboretum near Asheville, NC, which is home to Bent Creek Germplasm Repository (BCGR), America's only independent medicinal plant and endophyte germplasm repository (www.bentcreekinstitute.org). Mr. Cumberland served on BCI's Board of Directors until assuming the Presidency in January 2011. BCI also administers the US Botanical Safety Laboratory (USBSL), a collaborative of university botanical research and analytical testing laboratories in North Carolina. BCI is an associate member of AHPA, CRN, UNPA, ABC, and AHP. Prior to Bent Creek Institute, Mr. Cumberland worked for nearly 14 years at Gaia Herbs, Inc. He joined Gaia Herbs as Business Operations Director after it moved to North Carolina in 1997 and then became Vice President – Strategic Initiatives in 2001. The combination of his extensive experience with technical writing, resources management, legal and regulatory affairs, quality management systems/GMP compliance, university research initiatives, botanical safety, and sustainability management enabled Gaia Herbs to maintain competitiveness and growth in the US dietary supplements industry. He further served on working regulatory and standards committees of AHPA throughout much of this time. He was a co-founder of the North Carolina Natural Products Association (NCNPA) in 2002. Prior to his work for Gaia Herbs and NCNPA, he owned an independent book publishing company, Kivaki Press, with a thematic focus on environmental sustainability, ecological philosophy, and indigenous wisdom traditions. Currently, Mr. Cumberland is Chairman of the Board of CIRENAS (www.cirenas.org), a non-profit environmental service learning organization operating on the Southern Nicoya Peninsula in Costa Rica. He received a Bachelor of Science degree (Phi Beta Kappa) in Environmental Earth Sciences from Stanford University in 1990. His avocational interests include natural horsemanship, running, culinary travel, eco-philosophy, and screenwriting.