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CRDC Hires New Executive Director

Stephen Heavener Brings His Nearly Three Decades of Economic Development Experience Back to New England

Concord, NH -CRDC has hired Stephen Heavener to serve as executive director of the regional economic development organization. Heavener is taking over for Niel Cannon, who recently retired after 16 years with the organization.

A seasoned professional with 27 years of experience leading economic/community development programs across the country, the 53-year-old Heavener is no stranger to New Hampshire and the Northeast.

He held a variety of economic development positions in Keene in the 80s and early 90s and has also worked in Wyoming, New Mexico, Virginia, Maine, Vermont and New Jersey. In his role at CRDC, Heavener will oversee all operations and development efforts, including tasks such as business development, marketing and commercial/industrial real estate development and project management.

“Stephen has exactly the kind of background and management style we were looking for in CRDC’s next leader,” says Maura Carroll, President of the CRDC Board of Directors. “He has a strong and varied experience in economic development and he will be a wonderful addition to the team.”

Heavener comes to CRDC from Green River Futures, a non-profit economic development corporation in Green River, Wyoming where he has served as executive director for the past three years. His first day at CRDC is expected to be Thursday, November 1.

“Having lived and worked here before, I am familiar with the unique challenges and opportunities for growth and development in New Hampshire and I think CRDC is well positioned to create responsible development,” says Heavener. “CRDC is truly a regional organization, reaching communities across the state and I look forward to building on the strengths of the organization to create economic development initiatives that will benefit businesses, as well as state and local government.”

Heavener also brings extensive international experience to his new position, an important skill as New Hampshire companies continue to expand globally. He is an experienced international negotiator having traveled to northern Europe more than a dozen times and Asia four times on marketing and business recruitment missions. He also has broad experience in redevelopment and environmental rehabilitation programs, having administered multi-million dollar development and operating budgets for subsidized housing development, housing rehabilitation, infrastructure development, industrial park development, industrial building construction, business recruitment, and downtown development.

“One of my proudest professional accomplishments is that while in Virginia, I managed the complex redevelopment of Avtex Fibers, one of the largest Superfund sites in the country,” added Heavener. “This 500-acre site has been showcased by the EPA as a national demonstration for recycling Superfund sites and is currently in the midst of a \$200 million environmental and redevelopment effort.”

Heavener earned a Certified Economic Developer Certification (CEcD) from the International Economic Development Association and an Economic Development Finance Professional Certification (EDFP) from the National Development Council. He is a graduate of the Main Street Center National Revitalization Institute and earned a masters degree in public policy and a bachelor's degree in community development from Rutgers University in Camden, New Jersey.

A statewide SBA Certified Development Company, the non-profit CRDC has promoted economic opportunity for New Hampshire for more than 50 years through the development of land and the promotion of economic development loan programs. Working closely with municipalities and the public and private sectors, CRDC promotes economic opportunities that create new and permanent jobs, expand the tax base and jump-start small businesses and economic development projects. For more information, log on to www.crdc-nh.com.

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