

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**NEW HANCOCK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP NAMES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

HANCOCK COUNTY—Cynthia Schack, assistant director of the Mitchell County Economic Development Commission has been named Executive Director of the newly created Hancock County Economic Development Corporation (HCEDC) according to Jerry Tlach, President of the new group.

Schack was offered the job after nearly 20 applications were screened by the HCEDC board of directors in search of an executive director to lead the new organization.

“Cindy has gained valuable experience working for Mitchell County and comes to us highly recommended for the position. Her background in economic development coupled with her previous work experience made her a great choice to kick off this endeavor,” says Tlach, a member of the Hancock County Board of Supervisors, who are major funders of the new organization.

The new organization comes after the previous Hancock County Economic Development Group was dissolved in favor of a public-private partnership. “We have always been supportive of economic development,” says Tlach. “But we felt we needed to develop a group that would bring industry, education, and all of the communities in

Hancock County to the table. With this new group and a diverse board of directors we think we are going to accomplish that very well.”

Board member and HCEDC Vice President Susan Lewerke, Superintendent of Woden-Crystal Lake Schools, says this about the new organization: “Education is key to the success of the HDEDC. We are eager to let everyone in Hancock County know about our plans. Bringing Cindy on as our Executive Director will allow communication to broaden, bringing all constituents in our county into the economic development process.

Telling the story of this new organization will be one of the first priorities for Schack in her new position. “My first plan of action is to tour the county going to city council and local economic development meetings – meeting the people I will be working with. Designing a website and populating LOIS, an on-line database used by companies when they are scouting for business locations will also be on my initial to-do list.”

Schack notes, “Hancock County already has so many good things going for it. My goal is to assist the existing businesses we already have in place, while working to convince outside prospects that Hancock County is the place to do business in North Iowa, and to help, in any way possible, the entrepreneurs who are just getting started.”

Dan Culhane, executive director of the Mason City Economic Development Corporation and currently serving as the interim staff for the new Garner-based development organization said he was pleased with the quality of the applicants that he and the board had to choose from. “We had some very qualified people to select from, but at the end of the day, Cindy was a clear choice because of her direct economic development experience. I will continue to work with the HCEDC through the end of the

calendar year and help Cindy get acclimated to the day to day operational side of the job as well as the development and initial implementation of the board's strategic plan.”

“I am very excited to accept the position and am anxious to get started. I am looking forward to moving to Hancock County and becoming an active part of the community both in my professional and personal life,” says Schack.

Schack will begin her new position Monday, September 12th. Her office will be located in the Prairie Energy Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) offices in Garner.

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