

Business Plus, Inc.

February 3, 2017

**News Release:
SIEDO Names New Executive Director**

The Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization (SIEDO) has named **Connie Stopher** as its new Executive Director. Most recently, she was the Executive Director of the South Coast Development Council in Coos Bay, Oregon. Stopher will join SIEDO March 15, 2017.

In this position, Stopher will be responsible for leading the economic development activities in Southern Idaho to develop and grow the region by working closely with SIEDO's executive board, member cities/counties, the College of Southern Idaho, Business Plus, regional/state agencies and site selectors.



SIEDO was formed in 2001 to support and expand economic development efforts throughout Southern Idaho.



"I feel incredibly honored to have been selected for the position with SIEDO," Stopher said. "The region has seen tremendous success over the last several years, and I'm excited to be working with the talented individuals and communities that have supported that growth."

"We are excited to add Connie Stopher to SIEDO in support of our many communities, regional and state partners," said Dan Olmstead, SIEDO chair. "She brings extensive skills in all areas of economic development having run a similar organization in Oregon. She offers the ability to develop a vision for the region to move the organization and economic successes in Southern Idaho forward. She has already connected with several of our regional partners in the interview process and is ready to hit the ground running," he said.

Brad Wills has served as interim director since October and will be available to assist Stopher through the transition phase. "Brad has been tremendous in keeping SIEDO moving forward over the last few months. We were fortunate to have him with us and extend him our thanks for all his hard work," Olmstead said.

Connie Stopher has served as executive director of the South Coast Development Council in Coos Bay, Oregon since 2014. She was responsible for launching their Business Retention and Expansion program, leading an expansion of the organization's regional presence, and assisting with numerous business start-ups, expansions, and relocations, that has added hundreds of new jobs throughout the region. She has also served as an

economic development specialist for Bannock Development Corporation and human resource workforce training instructor at Idaho State University (ISU). She earned a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor of arts in political science from ISU.

Join us in welcoming Connie and her family to Southern Idaho!

Warm regards,

Rebecca Wildman
Executive Director
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208-539-6470

Mission Statement

Business Plus, Inc. is a regional non-profit organization made up of forward-thinking private businesses with the goal of growing our economy through job creation in the Magic Valley.

[Follow this link to the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization's website](#)

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