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Alliance Board Appoints NRV Native Executive Director

RADFORD, Va. - David L. Bennett, Chairman of the New River Valley Economic Development Alliance, has announced the appointment of Charlie Jewell as the new Executive Director effective August 1. The Alliance conducted a national search to fill the Executive Director position and interviewed candidates from across the country.

"It's a bit ironic that the search committee found the strongest candidate for the position among the local economic developers," said Bennett. "Charlie is a results-driven individual with a passion for economic development and the New River Valley. His appointment underscores the strength and depth of those working within the region to help build our economy."

Jewell comes to the Alliance with over seven years of experience in economic development with the Montgomery County, Va. Economic Development Department. He served as marketing and research specialist until being promoted to project manager in 2011. Jewell primarily focused his attention on marketing, business attraction, entrepreneurial development, and commercial real estate. During his time with the department, Jewell actively supported 14 business expansion and recruitment projects totaling 758 new jobs and \$59.6 million in investment. He worked with a wide variety of companies ranging from local technology startups to internationally-based companies to national retailers.

A Christiansburg native, Jewell is a graduate of both Virginia Tech and Radford University. He holds a Masters in Public Administration and Graduate Certificate in Economic Development from Virginia Tech and a Bachelors of Science in Political Science from Radford University.

"Charlie's educational background and professional experience provides him with a keen understanding of economic development principles," said Dr. John White, chair of the Alliance's Prospect team and search committee member. "He also is skilled in the best practices of public/nonprofit administration with skills in budgeting, strategic planning, and public policy analysis."

Jewell is a two-time regional leadership award nominee through the Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council, has received six communications awards from the Southern Economic Development Council for various marketing projects, and was one of five community leaders selected to represent Virginia at the 2012 Startup America Summit at the White House.

"I am extremely honored and grateful to the Board for selecting me as the next Executive Director of the Alliance," said Jewell. "The New River Valley has experienced significant growth over the past several years and is consistently recognized as a great place to live and

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grow a business. Our region has unbelievable potential and I look forward to working with allies from the public and private sectors to build upon and shape the economic future of the New River Valley."

The New River Valley Economic Development Alliance is a public-private marketing organization representing Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski Counties and the City of Radford. The region is designated the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford Metropolitan Statistical Area by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and is home to two state universities, Virginia Tech and Radford University and the New River Community College, and a diverse industry base. For more information, visit nrvalliance.org.

contact

6226 University Park Drive – Suite 2200 • Radford, VA 24141 • ph 540 267 0007 • fax 540 267 0013
info@nrvalliance.org • www.nrvalliance.org
toll free 800 678 1734