Jason Carr to lead new Prineville economic development program

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Today Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) announced the selection of Jason Carr to manage a new economic development program focusing solely on Prineville and Crook County, effective June 4th. Carr brings over 10 years of media and community experience to the position and a strong knowledge base of individuals, businesses, and organizations throughout the region.

Jason Carr Central Oregonians may recall Carr as KTVZ NewsChannel 21 primary anchor from 2002 to 2005. Carr spent nearly a decade with KTVZ in a variety of reporting positions including business and government, sports, and community issues as well as producing and writing assignments. For the past two years, Carr has been Anchor, Reporter, and Producer at KEZI 9 News in Eugene, Oregon.

â€œIâ€™m excited to take on this newly formed position and look to grow Prinevilleâ€™s business base over the next several years,â€• Carr said. â€œMy family and I are delighted to be back in Central Oregon and I look forward to renewing relationships within the community.â€•

The Prineville/Crook County Economic Development program is a partnership between EDCO, the Prineville/Crook County Chamber of Commerce, Crook County, and the City of Prineville, as well as local businesses. It is the culmination of several years of community collaboration and funding efforts. In late 2006, the three-year program was jumpstarted with a $50,000 grant awarded by Les Schwab Tire Centers, quickly followed by funding provided by Crook County ($30,000), the City of Prineville ($20,000), and local area businesses ($38,000 over three years).

The new Prineville program extends the EDCO Board of Directorsâ€™ vision to deliver optimal economic development with a two-pronged approach: a strong regional umbrella organization (EDCO) combined with satellite offices closely tied to their communities. The approach is modeled after a highly successful partnership forged four years ago between EDCO and Redmond Economic Development, Inc. to

serve the Redmond community.

â€œWeâ€™re delighted to have Jason lead the Prineville program,â€• commented Roger Lee, EDCO executive director. â€œHe is smart, personable and brings a wealth of community contacts and solid knowledge of how businesses and government in the area function. Now is the perfect time to create the kind of success in Prineville the Redmond partnership has produced with targeted efforts.â€•

Carrâ€™s office will be located in Mid Oregon Personnel in downtown Prineville. An 11-member Advisory Board has been formed to guide and prioritize economic development efforts specific to Prineville.

As with the Redmond Economic Development program, the effort is focused on producing tangible results for the community and local economy. Metrics include: targeted number of new, traded-sector jobs; taxable capital investment; number of companies provided substantive assistance; and completion of strategic projects that help improve the communityâ€™s business climate or ability to attract and retain industry. Efforts of the program are focused on helping both local existing companies as well as new employers recruited to the community. First year goals include facilitating creation of at least 100 new, traded-sector, family wage jobs; minimum $10 million in new capital investment by manufacturing or tech-based firms; and measurable success on a community strategic project.

About EDCOEconomic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) is a private non-profit corporation founded 25 years ago and dedicated to building a vibrant and thriving regional economy by attracting new investment and traded-sector jobs (manufacturing, professional, headquarters and high technology businesses) through marketing, recruitment and substantive assistance to existing companies. Learn more about EDCO at www.edcoinfo.com.

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