



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2025

GRADD welcomes Skyler Stewart as new Director of Community and Economic Development

The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) is excited to announce **Skyler Stewart** has been hired as the new **Director of Community and Economic Development (CED)**.

Stewart is no stranger to GRADD or the CED Department—it's only fitting she now leads the team, as it's one of the few roles she hasn't already held within the department.

Her journey with GRADD began in 2014 as a CED summer intern, followed by another internship in 2015. Her strong work ethic and drive quickly stood out, earning her a full-time position in 2016. Over the next five years, Stewart advanced through several key roles, including **Business Liaison, Public Administration Specialist, Senior Infrastructure Planner, and Planning Director**—each one adding to her depth of experience and regional knowledge. After several years working in education, she's excited to return to GRADD and continue serving the region she calls home.

"It's an honor to return to GRADD and once again serve our seven-county, 27-city region," Stewart said. "Having lived in Owensboro nearly my entire life, I've seen firsthand the growth and potential of our communities. I'm eager to continue building on the foundation and progress established by those who came before me."

GRADD Executive Director **Joanna Shake** shared her enthusiasm for Stewart's return

"GRADD is thrilled to welcome Skyler back. She is an excellent coach and mentor," says GRADD Executive Director Joanna Shake. "Her leadership skills coupled with her knowledge of the region will prove instrumental and impactful to our region's communities."

Stewart will officially begin her tenure as **GRADD's Community and Economic Development Director** on **Friday, October 17**.

For more information contact,

Joanna Shake
300 GRADD Way, Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 926-4433
jdshake@gradd.com

The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) is a regional planning agency and council of governments serving the communities of Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, and Webster counties. GRADD offers assistance in the fields of aging, health, and social services; community and economic development; transportation planning; and workforce development. Our mission is to afford local governments and citizens a regional forum to identify issues and opportunities, and to provide leadership in planning and implementing programs to improve the quality of life in our district.

300 GRADD Way, Owensboro, KY 42301 | www.GRADD.com | 270.926.4433