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## SHAWNEE CHAMBER AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNOUNCE STAFF CHANGES

SHAWNEE, Kan. October, 2011 – The Shawnee Chamber of Commerce announce the selection of Tom McVey to Business Growth Coordinator for its Economic Development Council (EDC) division, the addition of Marlene Shirley as Executive Assistant and the promotion of Stacey Dickson to Director Member Services & Communications.

“With all small offices, we’ve reassessed positions and responsibilities as vacancies have occurred, and are thrilled to announce the resulting staff changes,” said Linda Leeper, President and CEO of the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce. “Tom, Marlene and Stacey’s experience, dedication to quality service and commitment to the Shawnee community will be great assets to the Chamber and EDC as we grow.”

As Business Growth Coordinator, McVey will assist with business retention and development, and will provide a value-added component to members in the Shawnee Economic Development Council. Specifically, he will be instrumental in providing value to existing Shawnee businesses while helping market Shawnee as a premier business location.

“Tom is going to be a great addition to our staff,” said Nave. “He has a strong interest in businesses development and I am confident he will provide excellent support to our SEDC members and business development and retention plan.”

McVey previously was an intern at the Kansas City Area Development Council where he gathered research and data to support business retention and recruitment efforts. McVey holds a B.S. in Business Administration with a marketing concentration from Rockhurst University.

Shirley began her duties as Executive Assistant part time for the Chamber in May. She handles the daily financial and accounting duties, and assists the President in all aspects of daily operations, including Board and committee support. Shirley also serves as the face and voice of the Chamber, as she is typically the first person to answer the phone and greet in person visitors to the office.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Shirley handled accounting duties for an engineering company for three years. She is experienced in QuickBooks, payroll, and expense reporting.

In her role as Director Member Services & Communications, Dickson will oversee marketing and communications for the Chamber and its divisions, as well as the Chamber’s member retention efforts. Dickson, a Shawnee resident, joined the Chamber two years ago and has more than 20 years’ experience in marketing communications, including 15 years in the non-profit or association industry. She holds a B.S. in Public Relations with an emphasis in marketing from Kansas State University.

“I’m looking forward to my expanded role,” Dickson says. “This is a great opportunity for me to work more closely with our members and ensure we are delivering the programs and services that will help them grow and promote their organization.”

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Dickson is active in the Kansas City International Association of Business Communicators, serving on the Board as Treasurer for the past two years and in various volunteer roles. Additionally, she was a 2011 graduate from the Shawnee Tomorrow Leadership Program, a program where participants work on leadership development and gain access to top business, civic and community leaders who play integral roles in the region.

About the Chamber:

Established in 1946, the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization that works to preserve the best possible business climate and quality of life for Shawnee. With over 650 business members, the Shawnee Chamber Corporation (501C6) includes two divisions: the Economic Development Council, and the Convention and Visitor's Bureau. For more information, contact us at 913.631.6545 or visit our website at [www.goodstartshere.com](http://www.goodstartshere.com).

About the SEDC:

The Shawnee Economic Development Council (SEDC) functions as a division of the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce. The SEDC works collaboratively with the City of Shawnee and the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce to drive business growth and development. The SEDC promotes Shawnee as a distinctive, business location with an enhanced quality of life. The SEDC provides: available buildings and commercial-sites data, business-incentives programs, labor-force data, trade-area profiles and demographics, economic statistics and a one-stop, business-resource center. For more information, contact us at 913.631.6545 or visit our website at [www.goodstartshere.com](http://www.goodstartshere.com).

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