



# Joint Industrial Development Authority

of Wythe County, Wytheville & Rural Retreat

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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat is pleased to announce the selection of Michael B. Webb as the new Associate Economic Developer for the Joint IDA. After an extended search, the Board of Directors felt that the education and skills of Mr. Webb best fit the needs of the Joint IDA.

Mr. Webb received his masters degree in Economic Development from the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) and his undergraduate degree in International Studies with a minor in Economics, also from USM. He is a native of Florence, Alabama, and has prior experience working in the research section of Fluor Global Location Strategies (a unit of Fluor Daniels) as well as an internship with the Hattiesburg Downtown Association (a downtown redevelopment group). He also received an Outstanding Student Award while at USM. Mike will be joining the Joint IDA staff in January.

The addition of an associate economic developer will allow the Joint IDA to enhance its economic development efforts. Two key areas of additional emphasis will be to enhance our existing industry program, focusing on supporting and expanding opportunities for our existing businesses, and staff support for the Crossroads Regional Industrial Facility Authority. Crossroads RIFA is a regional authority composed of Bland County, Wythe County, and the Town of Wytheville and was created under the Virginia Industrial Facilities Act with primary focus on industrial development for Progress Park.

The new position of Associate Economic Developer was made possible with the assistance of a grant to the Joint IDA from the USDA Rural Development's Rural Business Opportunity Grant program and a Regional Competitiveness Program grant to the Crossroads Regional Industrial Facility Authority to which the Joint IDA provides contract services and local grant matches from member jurisdictions.

According to Joint IDA Chairman Steven Irvin "We have now assembled an outstanding economic development team that, when coupled with our transportation advantages and the attributes of Progress Park, will allow us to be as competitive as anyone."

"I am eager to join a dynamic economic development group." says Mr. Webb.

Contact: Joint IDA (223-3370)

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Website: [www.wytheida.org](http://www.wytheida.org)

