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Casey, Mills earn promotion; Gardella joins Team

September 25, 2019 ANCHORAGE, AK—The team at the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development (CED) promoted two staff to new positions and hired an Alaska Fellow.

Julia Casey is the new Entrepreneur and Accelerator Lead. She is responsible for CED's entrepreneurial development training efforts as well as the new Upstart Alpha Accelerator program launching in January 2020. "During the two years she's been with CED, Julia has displayed exceptional talent in developing tools to help entrepreneurs explore their businesses models and grow as founders. As we continue to support Alaska's entrepreneurs and expand the programs we offer, her skills will be invaluable," said Gretchen Fauske, CED Associate Director.

Ian Mills was promoted from Research Technician to Economic Analyst. In his new role he will continue to provide data compilation and analysis as well as quantitative and qualitative research. "Ian is a razor-sharp analyst with skills well beyond his years. Plus his quirky humor and knowledge of obscure trivia delights the team! We're excited to bring him on permanently," said Nolan Klouda, CED Executive Director.

CED is happy to welcome Julie Gardella to the team. Gardella is a member of the Alaska Fellows Program, which is a near-year-long fellowship program that places young people from around the country with organizations across Alaska. Gardella most recently worked at the Harvard Kennedy School's Environment and Natural Resources Program. At CED she is on the entrepreneurial development team, will help organize 1 Million Cups weekly pitch events, and will contribute to applied research projects. Gardella holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies from New York University, where she studied at three of NYU's global campuses, Berlin, Buenos Aires, and Sydney. She also holds a graduate certificate in Environmental Policy and International Development from the Harvard Extension School. "Along with a love of learning and adventure, Julie has a thoughtful, nuanced approach to complicated topics that will be an asset to our work. We're thrilled she's here and are excited to introduce her to Alaska!" said Fauske.

About the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development (CED)

CED is a university-based partnership promoting economic diversity through entrepreneurship, community building, and action oriented strategy. CED is one of 52 University Centers designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and is a program of the UAA Business Enterprise Institute.

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