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New Team Members at UA CED

September 2020, ANCHORAGE, AK—The University of Alaska Center for Economic Development recently added new staff to the team.

“Each of our new team members—Penny, Katherine, Joe, and John—brings a unique skillset to UA CED,” said Gretchen Fauske, UA CED Associated Director. “From economic development expertise and digital skills to first hand entrepreneurship and investment experience, their talents are an asset to us, and everyone we work with. We’re thrilled to have them on board!”

Penny Gage, Economic Development Specialist, has extensive knowledge of public, private, and nonprofit sectors that she’ll bring to bear on UA CED’s economic development projects. She is also a Google Indian Country Digital Trainer and experienced in entrepreneurial ecosystem building.

Katherine Jernstrom joins the team as an Entrepreneur-in-Residence in an adjunct capacity. As one of the lead instructors for the Upstart Alpha Startup Accelerator, she’ll use her years of experience as an entrepreneur and investor to support early stage entrepreneurial development, as well as provide mentorship to entrepreneurs.

Joe Grochmal is UA CED’s new Alaska Fellow. Hailing from Great Barrington, MA Grochmal’s experience is in government, working at the intersection of people, policy, and press on the local, state, federal, and international levels. He will be focusing on supporting UA CED’s entrepreneurial work, leading Alaska Startups, and 1 Million Cups.

John Boren, a previous participant in UA CED’s Upstart Alpha Startup Accelerator and Upstart Internship program, joins the team as a research technician, using his background in computer science to increase UA CED’s analysis and data visualization capabilities.

About the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development

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

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