

# Oconee Economic Alliance announces new addition

**BY STEVEN BRADLEY**  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — The Oconee Economic Alliance announced the addition of Emily Hodge as an economic development specialist in a news release Thursday.

A native of Asheboro, N.C., Hodge joins the OEA team after earning her bachelor's degree in economics from Sweet Briar College in Virginia and working with the School District of Oconee County.

Hodge will manage the OEA's internal databases and member relations program, as well as championing the various research aspects involved within economic development.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Oconee Economic Alliance and contributing to the growth of the community," Hodge. "It has been a dream of mine to work in economic development since graduating from college. I'm excited to be getting that chance."

OEA executive director Richard Blackwell told The Journal that

Hodge's hire is filling a role vacated by Russell Johnson's departure in late 2016, so it does not represent a new position.



**Hodge**

"We still have our same number of allocated positions from the county," he said. "We did change the title of said position from 'project manager' to 'economic development specialist' to expand job duties."

Christine Tedesco, chair of the board of directors

for the Oconee Economic Alliance, called Hodge "a welcome addition to the OEA team" who "will play a crucial role in continuing to aid the OEA in accomplishing its mission of positioning Oconee County for economic development successes."

sbradley@upstatetoday.com

