

Gilbert tapped as new OEA director

County administrator shares employment details

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Jamie Gilbert has been hired to lead the Oconee Economic Alliance.

The hire was announced Wednesday after previous director Annie Caggiano left in February.

"I couldn't be more honored and ecstatic to lead Oconee County's

economic development team," Gilbert said in a statement.



Gilbert

while at the same time

"It's not often you find a county that checks off so many key economic development boxes,

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offering an incredible quality of life, but Oconee does just that. I can't wait to make the move and become part of this great community."

Gilbert is currently the executive director of the Lancaster County Department of Economic Development (LCDED) and has been there since 2016. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated Lancaster County had a population of 100,336 people last July. The federal agency estimated Oconee had a population of 79,203 at the same time.

Gilbert has a master's degree in city and regional planning from Clemson University and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, a news release said. In 2019, he was named one of the top 50 economic developers in North America by Consultant Connect.

Oconee County Councilman Paul Cain, who chairs the Planning and Economic Development Committee, said Gilbert was "ready to hit the ground running."

"Jamie understands the importance of serving startups and existing businesses, while strategically laying the groundwork for continued economic expansion," he said.

Tri-County Entrepreneurial Development Corporation chairman Dave Eldridge said Gilbert had "excellent

credentials and experience."

"We know he will continue the tradition of successfully leading the economic development effort of Oconee County," he said.

TOTAL APPLICANTS, PAY REVEALED

There were 11 applicants for the vacant economic development position, county administrator Amanda Brock disclosed to The Journal.

Brock said Gilbert is targeted to join the county May 31. Gilbert's annual salary will be \$120,000, and he will have a car to use for county work purposes, according to Brock. For reference, Caggiano started at the same salary in November 2019.

"Oconee County is in its prime for economic development growth, and Jamie's vast experience and expertise in community economic vitality will be an asset to Oconee County and the Oconee Economic Alliance," Brock said.

ABOUT OEA

The OEA was created in 2013 to serve as a public-private nonprofit to recruit jobs and capital investment to Oconee. A release said OEA efforts have created nearly 2,000 new jobs and brought in \$620 million in capital investment since its founding.