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## **New Board of Directors Appointed**

The [Center for Rural Entrepreneurship](http://www.energizingentrepreneurs.org) is pleased to announce three new members for its 10-member board of directors. Jane Henderson, David Leckey and Tim Putnam have been elected as new board members, replacing Lee Vickers, Leslie Scott and Brian Dabson, whose terms recently expired.

Thomas S. Lyons of Baruch College and current board Chair said of the transition, “We are excited about the addition of these three members who bring deep experience with entrepreneurship and community development. They also represent some of the key organizational partners that the Center works with across the country. We look forward to the talents and energy they will bring to our board.”

The new members include:

**Jane Henderson** is President and CEO of Virginia Community Capital, a community development financial institution providing financing for community and economic development. Ms. Henderson has more than 24 years of banking industry experience. She is a graduate of the Consumer Bankers Associations’ Graduate School of Retail Bank Management and holds a Certified Risk Management Certification from the American Bankers Association. She graduated from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania and holds a Masters in Finance from St. Joseph’s University.

**David Leckey** is Executive Director of the Orton Family Foundation, a private foundation working to empower people to shape the future of their communities. Mr. Leckey brings extensive experience in the education, nonprofit, government and private sectors, first in Minnesota and now in Vermont. During Mr. Leckey’s career, he’s launched programs for business development, job creation and community revitalization. His first career was as a public school teacher in Ohio and Brazil.

**Tim Putnam** is the Associate Director, North Iowa Area Community College’s Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center, a comprehensive entrepreneurial support organization and regional economic development partner. Mr. Putnam has more than a decade of management experience. He has led presentations and workshops on entrepreneurial education, creating a community angel fund, and small business development at both state and national

conferences. He holds a BS in Business Administration from Kansas State University and a master's in Public Administration from Drake University.

The new members join the rest of the board comprised of:

**Michelle Decker**, Executive Director, Rural Action

**Mary Hunt**, Senior Program Officer, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

**Thomas S. Lyons** (Chair), Lawrence N. Field Family Chair in Entrepreneurship, Baruch College, CUNY

**Ines Polonius**, Executive Director, alt.Consulting

**Nancy Straw** (Treasurer), President, West Central Initiative

**Sherece West-Scantlebury**, President and CEO, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

**Shawn Winkler-Rios**, CEO, Soloprenur

The **Center for Rural Entrepreneurship** helps communities throughout the U.S. and Canada build a prosperous future. We work in partnership with communities to provide research-based, asset-focused, comprehensive and customized economic development strategies emphasizing entrepreneurship. The Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

For more information about the Center, call (402) 323-7336 or visit <http://www.energizingentrepreneurs.org>. For interviews, please email Deb Markley at [deb@e2mail.org](mailto:deb@e2mail.org).