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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 1, 2015

CEDC Elects New Board Leadership

HUDSON, NY - Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) has elected Tony Jones of Roe Jan Publishing President, and David Fingar of Mid-Hudson Cablevision Vice President of the CEDC Board of Directors.

Colin Stair of Stair Galleries in Hudson was also elected to join the organization's officers on CEDC's Executive Committee.

Tony Jones replaces David Crawford, President of Crawford Associates, Inc., who stepped down in July of this year after 25 years of service. Jones, who previously served on the CEDC board from 1997-2006, was elected to a new term on the board in February 2014.

"As we move forward with CEDC's reorganization, it's an opportunity not just to build greater understanding of CEDC's mission, but to re-energize the collaborative spirit needed to guide future economic development in Columbia County," stated Jones.

Most recently, Jones owned in partnership with his late wife Victoria Simons, the Independent Newspaper, which for a number of years was the official newspaper-of-record for every town, village and school district in Columbia County. Later they added The Paper, an arts and entertainment publication, as well as two Antiquer papers covering the Hudson Valley and western CT/MA. The company was sold in 2001.

Before buying the Independent Newspaper, Jones was an editor at Harper's Magazine and re-inventor of Harper's Weekly. A graduate of Yale, Jones later was editor of the Yale Alumni Magazine when it won an award as the best alumni magazine in the country.

Jones was a bank director for 20 years, first with Hudson City Savings, then Hudson River Bank & Trust, then First Niagara Financial Group where he served as chair of the Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee until retiring from the board in 2013. Jones currently serves on the board of the Hudson River Bank & Trust Foundation. Jones and Simons have 5 children, two of whom remain in the area.

"It's going to be a board of high engagement," stated Jones. "And, as we continue to move ahead inclusiveness will be important. The larger we make the conversation, the more transparent and sustaining will be our results."

David Fingar joins Tony Jones as the newly elected Vice President, replacing Mary Bartolotta of Coldwell Banker Bartolotta & Associates, who is continuing on as a board member. Fingar was appointed to the CEDC board in August 2014. He has served as chief engineer for Mid-Hudson Cable for the past 30 years. Fingar's past community service includes two terms as councilman for the Town of Livingston. He and his wife Linda have 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

Colin Stair is newly elected to CEDC's Executive Committee joining the organization's board president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Stair brings continuity from the organization's Management Team, which until recently provided oversight of the day-to-day operations of the organization. Stair was appointed to the CEDC board in March 2009. An auctioneer and expert in furniture restoration, Stair is the owner of Stair Galleries and Restoration in Hudson and Claverack. He and his wife Katrina have 2 children.

Completing CEDC's Board of Directors officers are Hudson Supervisor Sarah Sterling as secretary and Robert Sherwood of Kinderhook Bank as treasurer.

Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), the leading economic development organization in Columbia County, is committed to strengthening the county's tax base through economic development and job creation while maintaining the quality of life so desired by the people who live and work here. For more information about CEDC programs and services, visit www.columbiaedc.com or call 518.828.4718.