



KETCHUM INNOVATION CENTER

Jon Duval
Executive Director
100 Lindsay Circle
P.O. Box 6452
Ketchum, ID 83340
www.ketchuminnovationcenter.org

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New Leadership to Continue Growth of the KIC **Kathryn Kemp Guylay to step into role as Jon Duval pursues new opportunity**

The Ketchum Innovation Center (KIC) is pleased to announce that Kathryn Kemp Guylay will be taking over as the Chief Executive Officer of the KIC as Founder Jon Duval steps away to pursue a new venture.

The KIC was started by Duval and a volunteer board in the spring of 2014 with the mission of helping local entrepreneurs, startups and existing businesses in the Wood River Valley become successful and sustainable companies, increasing the number of full-time residents and professional jobs that aren't dependent on our seasonal resort economy. This is accomplished by offering shared office space with like-minded entrepreneurs, access to a highly accomplished range of volunteer mentors and a wide-range of programs and workshops.

"I couldn't be happier to have Kathryn stepping into this role," said Duval, who also had a role in the creation of both Ketchum Town Square and the Northwood Place affordable housing development. "She not only brings an immense amount of experience to the KIC, along with a deep understanding of the mission, but also has the skill set to take the KIC to the next level, and bring more visibility and participation to this project."

Kemp Guylay has been an active member of the KIC board since 2016, along with serving as a mentor for a number of KIC entrepreneurs. In addition, she founded her own company, Healthy Solutions of Sun Valley, through her involvement with the KIC.

"As an entrepreneur myself, I understand the importance of community support, networking and educational opportunities, all of which the KIC provide. I am excited to expand our services and reach in order to demonstrate the unique work/life balance that our very special community provides," said Kemp Guylay.

In 2010, Duval took over as head of the Ketchum Community Development Corporation, a non-profit founded by the City of Ketchum in 2006, heading up numerous projects before starting the KIC as an economic development project. With help from board members and volunteer mentors, including KIC board member Rick LeFaivre, Duval helped grow the KIC into its new facility in downtown Ketchum on the corner of Sun Valley Road and First Avenue, home of the former Scott USA boot factory.

After just over three years of operation, the KIC now has over 115 entrepreneurs registered into its program, more than 50 volunteer mentors, held dozens of workshops and classes for entrepreneurs, and has helped raise approximately \$1.25 million for local start ups.

"Jon has done a marvelous job creating the KIC from scratch over the past three years, and it is entirely appropriate that he is now going off to create his own company," said LeFaivre. "While we will miss his leadership, we are excited to have Kathryn step in to take the KIC to the next level. She is herself an entrepreneur who went through our first Lean Startup class several years ago, and I expect a smooth transition from Jon's to Kathryn's leadership."

Duval will be leaving at the end of October to start an adventure travel company, spurred on by the entrepreneurial spirit that flows through the KIC daily. He said that this tough decision was made easier once he knew that the organization would be evolving under the new and highly qualified leadership.

Neil Bradshaw, president of the KIC Board of Directors, is also excited for the smooth transition.

"I'd like to Congratulate Jon for his incredible service to the community, not only in his role as the head of the KIC but also for his service to the KCDC. The KIC has built community around entrepreneurship and Jon has been a key component it its success. We wish Jon well and look forward to the leadership that KG will bring, said Bradshaw.

The KIC will be starting its fall workshop and programming slate in early October, so please go to www.ketchuminnovationcenter.com for more dates and details.