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Grafton Regional Development Corporation names new Chief Executive Officer

Plymouth, NH – April 17, 2017 - The Grafton Regional Economic Development Corporation (GRDC) has named Anne Duncan Cooley as Chief Executive Officer. As CEO, Duncan Cooley will be responsible for the overall strategic direction of the organization, including the management of all loans, workforce programs, and oversight of two business incubators, the Dartmouth Regional Technology Center and the Enterprise Center at Plymouth. She began her new post on April 3rd.

GRDC partners with municipalities and businesses throughout Grafton County to promote and support economic development, GRDC has several loan programs available to businesses to help create and retain jobs, and offers a broad range of workshops and technical assistance to help local businesses grow and succeed. GRDC is a 501(c) 3 organization founded in 1997, and is one of ten recognized Regional Development Corporations in New Hampshire.

“Grafton County covers a large and diverse region, and I am looking forward to working with a wide variety of business, municipal and community leaders to strengthen our businesses and communities. I am eager to hear ideas for how we can support our local businesses and make Grafton County a great place to live and work in the future.” Said Anne Duncan Cooley “For nearly 20 years, the GRDC has taken a leading role in the county to help identify and address the major issues impacting our region. We are fortunate now to have one of New Hampshire's strongest leaders as our CEO. There's no doubt that Anne will continue to grow the organization and our mission in Grafton County.” Stated Mark LaClair, GRDC Board Chair.

Before joining GRDC, Anne Duncan Cooley was Executive Director of the Upper Valley Housing Coalition in Lebanon, focusing on workforce housing issues. After Tropical Storm Irene, Anne served as Chair of Upper Valley Strong, leading a multi-year collaboration of agencies, government, individuals and local organizations helping individuals in the region recover from the disaster. A longtime resident of Grafton County, Duncan Cooley has also volunteered in her community, including as a Board member and Chair of the Orford Select board, and was a longtime Director and Board Chair of Upper Valley United Way.

A graduate of Mt. Holyoke College and Vermont Law School, Duncan Cooley practiced law with the firm of Stebbins, Bradley, Harvey and Miller in Hanover. She was honored in 2012 with the Granite United Way President's award for her work with Upper Valley Strong, and in 2015 received the Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce Business Leadership Award. Anne is a member of the Leadership New Hampshire Class of 2008.

For more information on the Grafton Regional Development Corporation please visit www.graftonrdc.org.

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