

Prospera hires new director

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By Chronicle Staff

Prospera Business Network has hired Stuart R. Leidner as its new executive director, the economic development organization announced Friday.

He replaces Bob Hietala, who left in August to take a job as chief operating officer and assistant dean at the College of Technology in Bozeman. Peter Bertelsen, who had been the program director, served as interim executive director while Prospera searched for Hietala's replacement.

Leidner, who previously worked as executive director of the Greater Poulsbo Chamber of Commerce in Washington, has more than 20 years experience in for-profit business and nonprofit organization development, according to Prospera's release.

"His leadership in business, management and economic development has been effectively established in both small and large businesses around the country," according to the release.

He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Idaho.

Prospera has six employees and its offices are at 222 E. Main Street, Suite 102.