



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*Maria Kappes*



*Casey Kulbeck*

**Prospera welcomes two new staffers**

Bozeman, MT – Prospera Business Network proudly announces the hire of its two newest team members, bringing the office back to full capacity.

“The team that Prospera has in place demonstrates our vision to create a healthy community with a progressive and sustainable economic foundation,” said Start Leidner, executive director of Prospera Business Network. “Together with our members and the board of directors, this staff is energized to work toward that high level of excellence.”

Maria Kappes began as the Marketing and Membership Coordinator on June 21. She spent her first week supporting the logistics team at the Montana Women in Business Conference, where more than 100 participants converged in Big Sky to learn how their companies could better adapt to a recovering economy.

Kappes brings more than five years of experience in strategic marketing and philanthropic relations to the Prospera community, along with a solid background in journalism. She coordinates professional development and networking opportunities while assisting business leaders with their membership, accessing their related benefits, and offering sponsorship opportunities.

Previously, Maria was a philanthropy associate for a national land conservation organization. She holds a B.A. from the Univ. of South Dakota, is high school basketball referee, and serves as the Secretary of the Bozeman Youth Initiative board of directors.

Program Assistant Casey Kulbeck joined Prospera July 6. Her ten years of experience in for-profit and nonprofit organizations are now helping Prospera staff implement their various programs.

In addition to bookkeeping and office management, Kulbeck will support Prospera’s programs; help coordinate research such as Cost of Living Indices and Annual Economic Profiles; and provide administrative support for Prospera’s three revolving loan funds.

As the former administrative assistant and bookkeeper for the Northern Rocky Mountain Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D), Casey is attuned to southwest Montana’s economic development needs.

Prospera Business Network is a private, non-profit, member-supported economic development organization in southwestern Montana. Originally established in 1985 as the Gallatin Development Corporation, Prospera plays a leading role in economic development serving a region that is one of the fastest growing economic areas in the northern Rocky Mountains. Prospera is dedicated to encouraging and supporting business expansion, retention and relocation by providing access to business consulting, financing, professional development and economic research. For more information, visit [ProsperaBusinessNetwork.org](http://ProsperaBusinessNetwork.org) or call (406) 587-3113.

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