

Semple will lead Enterprise Center

- [Jonathan Gallardo](#)

After more than a year of searching, Energy Capital Economic Development has found a director for its Enterprise Center. **Judith Semple**, former regional director of the Small Business Development Center, will lead the business incubator on a voluntary basis.

Phil Christopherson, CEO of Energy Capital Economic Development, said Semple told him she'd been thinking about taking this position for some time.

"We sat down, chatted a bit and she decided it was something she wanted to do," he said. "She's more than we could've hoped for."

Previously, Christopherson played the role of the incubator's director.

"It does (free me up), but more importantly it gets our Enterprise Center moving at high speed," Christopherson said.

Semple will provide the building's current tenants with guidance and direction, and she'll also identify new businesses that could be potential fits for the incubator.

Semple, who retired 12 years ago, said she kept busy during her retirement working with the League of Women Voters, helping at the Soup Kitchen, painting at the Senior Center and singing in Gillette College's community choir. But she wanted to get back into economic development.

She's familiar with the concept of an incubator, and when she was with the SBDC, she said she thought it "would've been wonderful to complement" what her organization did. But that was "a long time ago," she said, and "things change in a hurry."

“My biggest challenge is to come back and find out how an incubator should run,” she said. “It’s been a learning curve, not to mention, computers have changed a little bit.”

She’s not alone. Semple and Christopherson selected six people to serve on the Enterprise Center steering committee to work alongside Semple.

The committee is made up of **Gail Lofing** from the Chamber of Commerce, **Kalina Petersen** of Alignment Pros, **John McGuire** of Gillette College, **Brian Worthen** of Visionary Broadband, **Kevin Couch** of ANB Bank and **Lori Manning** of S&S Builders.

It’s an experienced group of people, Semple said, and she “will be depending on them for lots of help.”