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Economic Progress Institute Announces Change in Leadership

Providence, RI – Eleven years after stepping in to succeed her mentor and co-founder of the Economic Progress Institute Nancy Gewirtz, Kate Brewster is stepping down as executive director to take on a new challenge.

Brewster will be executive director of the Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale, a community-based organization that provides such basic needs as food and clothing for local residents while also engaging in individual and policy advocacy.

“It is with tremendous mixed emotions that I leave the Institute, an organization that has had a lasting and profound impact on the ability of Rhode Islanders to make ends meet,” Brewster said. “I am excited to start a new chapter of helping to make sure that people in my local community don’t go to school or to bed hungry.”

Rachel Flum, the Institute’s long-time senior policy analyst, has been promoted as the new executive director.

Flum, recently chosen as one of “40 under Forty” by *Providence Business News*, has been a senior policy analyst with the Institute for ten years and has also served as the project manager for the RI Health Coverage Project, a joint initiative of the Institute and RI Kids Count.

“We’re pleased that such a strong leader, with a wealth of knowledge about the issues facing Rhode Islanders, was available on the EPI staff,” said Alan Flam, secretary of the Institute’s board and head of the search committee. “Over the past ten years, Rachel has shown the commitment, talent and vision to lead this organization into the future.”

“We are so grateful for the leadership that Kate has provided for this organization and the people whose lives we work to make better,” said Flam. “The residents of South County are fortunate she will now be working directly on their behalf.”

The Economic Progress Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works to improve economic security and opportunity for all Rhode Islanders, through research, advocacy and community partnerships. For more information visit www.economicprogressri.org.

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