

Oconee County Chamber of Commerce names Courtney Bernardi President
Native of Oconee County to lead business group

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Watkinsville, Ga. – The Oconee County Chamber of Commerce has named Courtney Bernardi, an Oconee native, as its next president. Bernardi, who begins her new role on December 1, 2017, currently serves as CEO for Johns Creek Advantage, the economic development organization for the city of Johns Creek, Ga.

“I look forward to working with the Chamber’s internal team, board of directors and membership to carry out the Chamber’s strategic plan in partnership with local, state and regional organizations and resource providers,” said Bernardi. “A strong Chamber of Commerce is a pillar of success for a bright future. I look forward to coming back to the great community where I grew up.”

Bernardi succeeds Kay Keller, who resigned as president to take a position with the University of North Georgia.

At Johns Creek Advantage, Bernardi assisted businesses of all sizes with the creation of more than 800 jobs and more than \$500 million in capital investment in the community. She has also served as the lead economic development official for the Chambers of Commerce in Newton and Jackson Counties. Her efforts in those counties led to the successful recruitment of nine companies and the expansion of existing footprints, resulting in more than \$700 million in capital investment and more than 2,500 new jobs created.

“We are so excited to name Courtney our new Chamber president, and I believe she will move us forward,” said Cindy Haddon, chair of the Chamber’s board of directors. “During our initial meeting with Courtney, I was inspired, impressed and enlightened. With her background in Chamber of Commerce and economic development work, she will be a tremendous asset to our chamber and our community.”

Bernardi holds a degree in political science and sociology from Presbyterian College in South Carolina and a master of public administration from Kennesaw State University. She is also a graduate of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development and several community leadership programs. She is married to Philip Bernardi, executive vice president and chief lending officer at Oconee State Bank. They have a 3-1/2-year-old daughter, Milania.

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