

## Principles of Community

We recognize that our organization is comprised of diverse community members having many perspectives, identities, and lived experiences. We recognize that to create an inclusive and intellectually vibrant community, we must understand and value both our individual differences and our common ground.

Principles of Community is an aspirational statement that embodies this commitment, and reflects the ideals we seek to uphold. Therefore, Regional Economic Development Inc. (REDI) adopts and practices the following principles as fundamental to our organization's on-going efforts to increase access and inclusion and to create a community that nurtures learning and growth for all of its members:

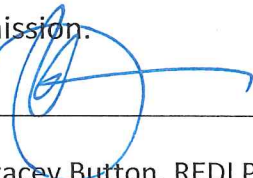
**We affirm** the inherent dignity and value of every person and strive to maintain a climate for work and learning based on mutual respect and understanding.

**We affirm** the right of each person to express thoughts and opinions freely. We encourage open expression within a climate of civility, sensitivity, and mutual respect.

**We affirm** the value of human diversity because it enriches our lives and our organizations. We acknowledge and respect our differences while affirming our common humanity.

**We reject** all forms of prejudice and discrimination, including those based on age, color, diverse ability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, and veteran status. We take individual and collective responsibility for helping to eliminate bias, and discrimination and for increasing our own understanding of these issues through education, training, and interaction with others.

**We pledge** our collective commitment to incorporate these principles into REDI's mission.



Stacey Button, REDI President



Jeff Echelmeier, REDI Board of Directors Chair

