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## **Patti Gartland to retire as President of the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation**

*ST. CLOUD, Minn. / Feb. 14, 2023*— St. Cloud native and longtime community leader Patti Gartland formally announced today that she will retire on May 31 as President of the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation (GSDC), a position she has held since June 1, 2013.

During her tenure, she has led the organization's highly collaborative, business-centric approach to economic development by assisting hundreds of existing and prospective businesses to optimize their success within the Greater St. Cloud region and supporting the thousands of jobs that contribute to the region's high quality of life.

"It has been a tremendous honor to spend my entire career with organizations dedicated to fostering and advocating for the interests of the people and businesses that choose to live, work, conduct business, develop, engage and contribute to the Greater St. Cloud community. These past 10 years with the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation have been the perfect finale to my professional career," said Gartland, a graduate of St. Cloud Tech High School and St. Cloud State University. "But rest assured that my passion and commitment to this community will never retire. I look forward to continuing to be an active and engaged member of this great community."

Prior to joining the GSDC, Gartland was the City Administrator for Sartell for nearly 12 years, including during the massive emergency response to the historic and tragic paper mill explosion. Before that, she worked for 15 years with the City of St. Cloud, the last 13 as its Planning Director. Since 2014, Gartland has been a member of the Metropolitan Airports Commission, currently serving as its vice chair. She will continue as a MAC Commissioner after her retirement from the GSDC.

Expanding air service, talent development and promoting the region have been major areas of focus for Gartland at the GSDC. Those include the creation of the St. Cloud Regional Airport Authority; launch of GreaterStCloudJobSpot.com, which is updated daily with thousands of local jobs; and the St. Cloud Shines digital marketing efforts that strive to promote all the amazing attributes and opportunities within the region. To date, St. Cloud Shines has attracted more than 170 million impressions.

"There is no more enthusiastic or effective advocate for the Greater St. Cloud region than Patti Gartland," said GSDC Board Chair Joan Schatz. "Leading a talented staff and coordinating the participation of many GSDC investor organizations, Patti has had a tremendous impact on the St. Cloud region's economic development and overall community vitality."

Schatz said the GSDC Board of Directors has hired Minneapolis-based CohenTaylor Executive Search Services to identify qualified candidates and help the Board choose the best successor to Gartland. Schatz encouraged local professionals to contact CohenTaylor if they're interested.

"Patti has created some large shoes for the next GSDC President to fill," said Schatz. "She will leave the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation in an excellent position to continue helping shape a better tomorrow for our region."

