

Stillwater

# ArtReach St. Croix names new director

## Rutledge coming from Pennsylvania

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**Heather Rutledge, 38,** grew up in Iowa City and attended the University of Iowa.

Heather Rutledge, assistant director of the Abington Art Center and Sculpture Park in suburban Philadelphia, has been tapped to be executive director of ArtReach St. Croix in Stillwater.

About 40 people applied for the position after former executive director Jessica Pack left in April, said Bill McCarthy, board president. Rutledge stood out right from the start, he said.

"As soon as I saw her résumé, which is very impressive, I just called her straight out," McCarthy said. "It's not about just being the right person for Stillwater; it's about being the right person for the St. Croix River Valley because it's really our goal to make the valley a nationally recognized arts destination."

Rutledge, 38, has worked for Abington Art Center and Sculpture Park since 2001. She directs and implements strategic and program marketing, public relations, visitor services, and administrative and operations functions.

Rutledge, who grew up in Iowa City, said moving to Stillwater will be a homecoming of sorts. She starts Oct. 3.

"It's an opportunity to advance my career and to continue promoting the arts on a regional basis, which is

my passion," she said.

ArtReach St. Croix, which was founded as River Valley Arts Council in 1992, moved to a new facility in downtown Stillwater in 2009. The building includes gallery space, a retail gallery, meeting rooms, studio space, a framing studio, administrative offices and a small performing space.

Before joining the Abington center, Rutledge was program assistant and grants manager for the Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour program and member services coordinator and publications editor for the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.

She also has volunteered with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

Rutledge graduated from the University of Iowa in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in anthropology.

Rutledge and her husband, Andrew, have two sons, Finn, 5, and Elliot, 2.

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