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For Immediate Release

**ALLIANCE FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS
ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRANSITION**

Manistee, Michigan - The Board of Directors of the Alliance for Economic Success announced today that Renee' Ihlenfeldt, Executive Director, will be leaving the Manistee-based organization and that plans are being made to ensure a smooth leadership transition. Ihlenfeldt will continue her employment with the AES during a transition period. A date has not yet been set for recruiting and hiring a new Executive Director. Ihlenfeldt is leaving the AES to join her husband, Bill, who recently accepted a new post in Austin, Texas.

"I know that I join many throughout Manistee County in expressing our thanks and appreciation for all that Renee' has done to re-engineer and lead Manistee County's economic development strategy," said AES Board Chair Beth McCarthy. "Much has been accomplished under her leadership to re-position the County's approach to improving our economic well-being and quality of life. From the influx of grants and funding for economic development to the recent decision by Mariah Power and MasTech to bring a new alternative energy business and jobs to our County, Renee' can be very proud of what has been accomplished in a short period of time."

McCarthy said that Ihlenfeldt will continue to work with the AES during a transition period that will include a search process for a full-time Executive Director. The AES will publicly announce and advertise the Executive Director search at a date to be determined in 2009.