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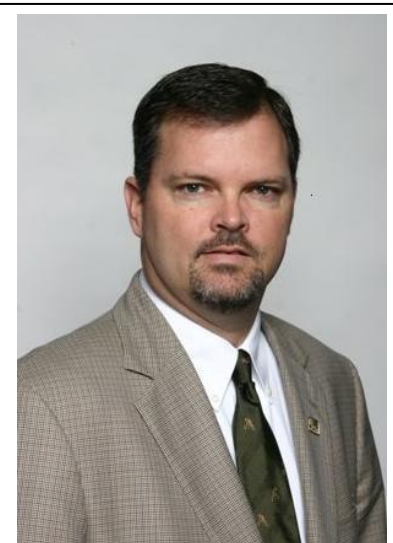
## **Ted Clem Selected to Lead Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission**

Albany, GA. - A certified economic development professional with a proven track record in the field has been chosen to lead the Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission. The public-private partnership board unanimously approved Ted Clem to serve as president of the organization during a called meeting today. He will begin his duties on January 16.

Clem currently serves as executive director of the Bay County Economic Development Alliance in Panama City Beach, Fla. Since 1999, he has led the community's economic development initiatives to create over 5,000 new jobs.

"Ted's background, professionalism and personality are a perfect match for the needs of the commission," said Bobby McKinney, chair of the commission. "This is a great day for our community. I speak for the search committee and commission when I say this is a home run for Albany-Dougherty County and Southwest Georgia."

A native of Georgiana, Ala., Clem graduated from Troy State University in 1988 with a degree in journalism. While at TSU, he was a player on the 1984 and 1987 National Championship football teams. He later received a Master's degree in economic development from the University of Southern Mississippi. After beginning his economic development career serving in rural communities in south Alabama, Clem was named vice president of business development for the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce in 1995. He was instrumental in the creation and attraction of over 3,500 new jobs from business locations and expansions in the Pensacola region.



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“The opportunity to work with the business, government, and community leaders in Albany and Dougherty County is truly exciting,” Clem said. “While there are economic challenges ahead, I believe this region of the country has a great story to tell about its resources, but most importantly about the determination of its work force. I look forward to hitting the ground running later this month and beginning to build relationships with everyone involved in economic development.”

Clem, a past chairman of the Florida Economic Development Council, currently serves on the executive board of Florida’s Great Northwest, a regional economic development marketing organization. He is married to the former Stacey Clark, of Pace, Florida, and has three children, Annalise (13), Alaina (10), and Andrew (8).

“Economic development experience, effective communication, government relations, leadership and business acumen are some of the skill sets the search committee identified as important for the new president to possess,” said Albany City Manager Al Lott. “Ted’s interview with the search committee, response to the application, and glowing references indicated to everyone involved that he has these skill sets and more.”

“I am very pleased with the commission’s decision today,” said Dougherty County Administrator Richard Crowdis. “The search was inclusive and allowed the community to be involved in the process through stakeholder interviews as well as an online survey through the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce. Ted’s background in building successful economic development teams was a convincing factor for the search committee in recommending him for the position.”

Clem was chosen from 25 candidates who submitted résumés for the position. Of those submitting résumés, 14 completed an extensive application which took them to the next level of consideration. The candidates came from a variety of states: six from Florida; three from Georgia; three from Virginia; two from Mississippi; two from Pennsylvania; two from South Carolina; and two from Texas. Arizona, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada and Ohio each had one candidate to apply.

Other business and government leaders serving on the search committee, in addition to McKinney, Lott and Crowdis, are: Don Barfield, Dr. John Culbreath, Len Dorminey, Vince Falcione, Brian Graczyk, Morris Gurr, John McDuffie, Dr. Anthony Parker, Judy Randle, Jay Smith, Dr. Brenda Hodges-Tiller, and Joel Wernick.

The Chason Group, Inc. of Cartersville, Georgia is assisted the commission with the executive search.

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