

Waycross-Ware County Development Authority To Begin Interview Process For President

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Members of the Waycross-Ware County Development Authority will begin interviewing candidates for the position of president in the next few weeks. The professional chosen to lead the organization will be the key marketer and contact for the community's economic development initiatives.

A nationwide search has been underway since August. Stakeholder conversations were held with many individuals who are connected to economic development in the community, region, and at the state level. From the feedback obtained, a position description and the basis for a strategic plan have been established for the new economic development leader.

Personal contacts, social media, and trade association announcements have been used to attract candidates to the seat. Candidates will be screened based on a weighting scale of traits approved by the development authority. The goal of the authority is to have a professional in place by the end of 2016.

The authority re-organized itself earlier this year and has shown tremendous progress in terms of working with existing businesses and potential new job creators. The City of Waycross and Ware County Board of Commissioners have supported the revamped authority through financial commitments and their presence.

"This is an exciting time for our community," says Dr. William Clark, chair of the authority. "In the past four months, we have had several companies to announce expansions which will result in new jobs and investments and more are on the way! The positive response from statewide economic development professionals has been very encouraging. There are a lot of people working to put Waycross and Ware County back on the map with the Georgia Department of Economic Development, utility companies, and site consultants."

In addition to Dr. Clark, other members of the authority include, Ware County Commission Chairman Jimmy Brown, Waycross Mayor John Knox, Pam Hart, Daniel Morris, Dr. Yolanda Rivers, James Willis, and Ty Wright.

"The development authority is working together as a team to plan a strategy for future investments and jobs in the community," Dr. Clark added. "We have started a process of reviewing our current inventory of available properties and buildings. The support of city and county leaders to accomplish this task has been excellent. One of our next steps will be to create a website that is user friendly for site consultants and project managers. Economic development is a continuous effort that requires constant attention."

The Chason Group is working with the authority on the executive search process.