



## Development Authority of Elbert County, Elberton & Bowman Names Daniel Dobbins to President/CEO Position



*Daniel Dobbins*

*(Elberton, Georgia)* The Development Authority of Elbert County, Elberton & Bowman has selected Daniel Dobbins as president and chief executive officer. The Chason Group led the executive search for the economic development organization.

“Over the past few months, members of the development authority have led an extensive executive search process that provided us with an outcome that will make a significant impact on our community in the years to come,” according to Gunter. “Daniel has rural, regional and statewide economic development experience. His understanding of the need to work with and provide infrastructure support to existing industries as well as build a foundation for new investments is very encouraging. As a regional project manager for the Georgia Department of Economic Development, he comes to Elbert County with several key relationships already in place.”

Dobbins most recently served as the Region 5 existing industry project manager for the state’s economic development team. Elbert County is one of the twelve counties within the district. Other positions he has held include economic development specialist for the City of Hawkinsville, Georgia and government services specialist for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

As a Certified Associate in Project Management, Dobbins is an active member in the Georgia Economic Developers Association, Project Management Institute and International Economic Development Council. He earned his undergraduate (Bachelor of Arts) and graduate degrees (Master of Public Administration) from The University of Georgia in Athens.

“Working as a part of the economic development team in Elbert County is very exciting for me,” Dobbins said. “I truly believe I can play a role in the success of this community in years to come. The foundation that has been put in place over the past six months with the reorganized development authority and encouragement from local government entities are key factors in economic development. There is a tremendous amount of work ahead for all of the partners involved in this process.”

“There are several ‘low hanging’ wins out there for the development authority,” Gunter said. “First and foremost, Daniel will be charged with establishing a rapport with our existing industries. They are critical to the vitality of our community. A second assignment for him will be establishing a presence for the

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community with statewide contacts at the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Electric Cities of Georgia, Georgia Power Company, Georgia EMC and others. This will include initiating a website that is tailored for site consultants, project managers and developers who have contact with potential investors.”

According to Gunter, the executive search process was conducted in three phases. The first phase was used to determine the skill sets and focus points for the position. Over a dozen stakeholder interviews were held to gather information for the development authority members. The second phase was casting the net for candidates and specifically identifying professionals who may fit the role of the new president. The final action of the group was to interview candidates best suited for the economic development role.

Other members of the development authority, in addition to Gunter who is president of Matthews Granite, Inc., include: Dr. Andrea Daniel, vice chair of the authority and president, Athens Technical College; Steve Banks, chief executive officer, Turner Concrete, Inc. / Quality Block Company, Inc.; Leona Brown, city council member-elect, City of Bowman; Larry Guest, mayor, City of Elberton; Randy Smith, co-owner, Central Granite Company, Inc.; and Lee Vaughan, chair, Elbert County Board of Commissioners. Tamara Butler, county clerk for Elbert County, serves as secretary of the development authority and Kevin Eavenson, public works director for the City of Elberton, serves as the treasurer.