

Position Announcement

Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Authority

Douglas, Georgia



President

Executive Search. The Chason Group, Inc. has been selected to conduct an executive search for an experienced economic development professional to lead the Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Authority in Douglas, Georgia.

About the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Authority. The Chamber and EDA operate in the same facilities but as two separate organizations. The President will only have fiscal and staffing responsibilities for the Chamber. A Chamber Executive Vice President will be accountable for day-to-day operations.

The EDA is a Georgia constitutional authority, and operates with an annual budget in excess of \$700,000. The board is composed of seven members, three of whom are appointed by the Coffee County Commission, three by the City of Douglas Commission, and the seventh who is the Chairperson of the Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber's role is to promote the community of nearly 45,000 residents in terms of quality of life and workforce development.

The Position. Experience in economic development, successful marketing initiatives, and proven leadership are the key skill sets the Search Committee is seeking in candidates for the President's position.

Candidates should possess a minimum of five years of management, executive and strategic leadership experience in the economic and / or community development fields. Other requirements include a bachelor's degree, ideally with an MBA or other post-graduate work, in business, marketing, economic development or a similar field from an accredited college. Equivalent employment experience will be reviewed. Applicants will be required to obtain a Georgia driver's license upon employment. The successful candidate will be expected to live in Coffee County within 90 days of employment and have a permanent residence within one year.

A Proven Track Record in Economic Development. At the present time, the EDA is marketing its property in the second, third, fourth and fifth industrial parks developed by the Authority. These include Perimeter West Industrial Park, Southwest Industrial Park, Park West, Park West Industrial Park II (this

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approximately 115 acres site has access to rail), and Satilla Park. In its second industrial park, the EDA constructed and successfully marketed two 100,000 square foot brick speculative buildings. A third 100,000 square foot speculative building was constructed in the third industrial park that was purchased by Premium Waters, Inc.

Recently the EDA completed construction of its fourth speculative building in Park West, a business park on approximately 70 acres that was designed to accommodate a wide range of uses, including professional, governmental, healthcare, public safety, corporate headquarters, and uses that rely on advanced scientific, technical and engineering capabilities. The fifth park is under construction.

Georgia. Georgia's pro-business environment is the product of state statutes, economic development practices, business development support, fiscal conservatism, leadership on all levels, and an innovative, progressive business community. Georgia was the first southeastern state to pass single-factor corporate tax apportionment. This means that in-state sales are the only relevant factor in determining the portion of taxable income to which the 6 percent corporate tax rate is applied. Georgia is one of a handful of states to have the highest bond ratings (AAA) from all three major municipal bond rating agencies — Moody's, Fitch and Standard & Poor's. Area Development, a leading executive magazine covering corporate site selection and relocation, named Georgia the No. 1 state in the nation in which to do business for the fifth consecutive year. The 2017 Top States for Doing Business rankings reflect the results of a recent survey that asked site consultants to provide their top state picks in 12 categories related to companies' location and facility planning.



The Search Process. Candidates interested in the President's position should submit a resume to The Chason Group no later than February 28, 2018 *with a cover letter outlining interest in the position*. The Chason Group team will review the applicants based on a pre-determined weighting scale that has been derived from stakeholder interviews in the community. The most qualified applicants will receive a detailed application with specific instructions on completion and return date. Interviews will be held with the top candidates who will be presented to the Search Committee for consideration of interviews. Background checks, financial and criminal, will be conducted on candidates. The target start date for the position is April 2018.

How To Apply. For more information regarding the executive search process for the President's position with the Douglas-Coffee County Chamber and EDA, Georgia, please contact Tim Chason at 404/735-0540 or Randy Cardoza at 404/661-9438.

An advertisement for Douglas-Coffee County, GA. It features a group of diverse professionals standing behind a white picket fence, with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. In the foreground, there is a large cup of coffee, a sugar donut, and a newspaper. The text "Business is brewing in Douglas-Coffee County, Georgia" is overlaid on the image. At the bottom left, there is a dark box with the text "DOUGLAS COFFEE COUNTY · GA" and "114 N PETERSON AVE #205, DOUGLAS, GA 31335". At the bottom right, there is a small Facebook icon and the phone number "912-384-1873 • www.DouglasGA.org".

The Douglas-Coffee County EDA initiated a marketing program in 2016 to build brand identity for the community.