

# Position Announcement

## *Forward McDuffie*

### Thomson, Georgia



## President

**Executive Search.** The Chason Group, Inc. has been selected to conduct an executive search for an experienced professional to lead Forward McDuffie in Thomson, Georgia.

**About Forward McDuffie.** Forward McDuffie is the operational name for the Thomson-McDuffie County Economic Development Authority. The Chamber of Commerce and the Convention and Visitors Bureau are also part of the organization. The recently re-structured Forward McDuffie Board of Governors is composed of nine members and four ex-officio members representing County, City, Chamber, CVB and education institutions. Funding for Forward McDuffie/Development Authority is provided by the McDuffie County Board of Commissioners and revenues from bond sales. The executive directors of the Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau will report to the new president, however each organization will have Advisory Boards and specific programs of work, forming a strong community team.

**The Position.** McDuffie County is poised for growth, split by Interstate 20 and just 30 miles from Augusta, the second largest Georgia metro area. The U.S. Army's new Cyber Command headquarters is a key reason for the growth potential. Both economic development and community development experience, proven leadership, communication skills and marketing expertise are all important skill sets required of the president's position. In addition to economic development acumen, assisting in retail development will also be part of the president's duties. Other requisites for the position include: minimum of a Bachelor's degree, ideally with post-graduate work or degree, from an accredited college or equivalent experience; minimum of five years of management, executive and strategic leadership experience in the economic and/or community development field. Emphasis will be given to a Certified Economic Development professional or individual in process of achieving certification. Applicants must be eligible to obtain a valid Georgia drivers license within the first 90 days of employment.

**How To Apply.** For more information regarding the executive search process for the President's position with Forward McDuffie in Thomson, Georgia, please contact Tim Chason at 404/735-0540 or Randy Cardoza at 404/661-9438. A cover letter and resume may be submitted to [tchason@thechasongroup.com](mailto:tchason@thechasongroup.com) no later than November 30, 2017.

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**The Search Process.** Candidates interested in the President’s position are required to submit a resume to The Chason Group no later than November 30, 2017 *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 Forward McDuffie Board of Governors for consideration of interviews. Background checks, financial and criminal, will be conducted on these candidates. The target start date for the position is February 1, 2018.

### **Location, Transportation & Utilities.**

Located only 30 minutes from Augusta, home to the Masters Golf Tournament, Thomson is ideally located along Interstate 20 in east Georgia. US Route 221 intersects the county north and south. Commercial air service is available at Bush Field (37 miles) and Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport less than two hours away. The Thomson-McDuffie Regional Airport is the largest general aviation facility in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA). McDuffie County is served by three interstate and 24 interstate/intrastate carriers. CSX and Norfolk Southern provide piggyback service for Thomson businesses to the Atlanta area. Georgia EMC and Georgia Power are the primary utility distributors in the area.

**Education.** Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are served by the McDuffie County School System. There are six schools in the system: four elementary, one middle school and one high school.

Augusta Technical College, a post secondary institution of the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education, has a satellite campus in Thomson to serve the needs of citizens and businesses in the area. Colleges within an hour’s drive of Thomson include Georgia Regents University, Augusta; Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville; Paine College, Augusta; and the University of Georgia, Athens.

**Industrial Sites.** The Thomson-McDuffie County Economic Development Authority owns or has access to over 600 acres of industrial zoned properties. The largest site is 419 acres near Interstate 20. Utilities, including water, sewer and gas are located on the sites.

**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 fourth 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.