

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT



GEDA

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Key Attributes Required

- *Economic / Community Development Experience*
- *Legislative Advocate*
- *Communicator*
- *Relationship Builder*
- *Leader*

Overview. The Georgia Economic Developers Association Board of Directors is searching for a professional to serve as president and chief executive officer of the 501(c)(6) organization. The Chason Group (www.thechasongroup.com) has been retained to assist the statewide economic development professional group with the executive search process. Kevin Shea, the long-time leader of the organization, is retiring in September.

About GEDA. The Georgia Economic Developers Association is one of the leading organizations for economic development professionals in the Southeastern US.

Established in 1963 as the Georgia Industrial Developers Association, GEDA adopted its current name in 1993—replacing “industrial” developers with “economic” developers to better reflect the broad

scope of interests and services that go into promoting job creation and community prosperity.

Like many economic development organizations, GEDA was spawned during the Post-World War II economic expansion as states and local communities took stock of their economic challenges and opportunities. In Georgia during the late 1950s, a small group of industrial developers began meeting regularly over lunch—the precursor of a professional trade association. The group adopted organizational documents in 1963, boasting a membership roll representing 19 state and regional organizations. Incorporation as a 501(c)(6) organization came in 1975.

GEDA’s primary mission is to serve as *the* resource for networking, professional development, and public policy for Georgia’s economic development community.

GEDA annually recognizes excellence in economic development through five awards: Rip Wiley Award for Professional Excellence; Governor Zell Miller Public Policy Leadership Award; Volunteer of the Year Award; Honorary Life Member; and Deal of the Year.



The Membership. GEDA membership today exceeds 700 practitioners and reflects the multi-faceted nature of economic development, whose sectors include manufacturing, commercial, tourism, film, conventions, and more. Practitioners are active in everything from entrepreneurship, workforce preparedness and research commercialization, to re-development and international trade development.

The Position. The President and Chief Executive Officer of the Georgia Economic Developers Association will serve as the resource, educator, connector, and voice for Georgia's economic development community. General duties shall include becoming actively engaged in state and federal legislative and policy issues affecting GEDA's members and their communities by serving as a known go-to resource for economic development; management of the organization's operations, finances, and activities; supervision of professional staff members and contractual entities; coordination of membership communications and external relations; and logistical support for the Officers, Directors, committee chairs, and volunteers. The professional shall also be accountable for providing leadership, long-term visioning, strategic planning, professional development, and networking opportunities associated with GEDA, and implementing best practices for the statewide 501(C)(6) nonprofit organization.

The Ideal Candidate. Professionals applying for the position should have proven knowledge and experience in the economic and/or community development field(s). This expertise will play an important role in GEDA becoming the "go to organization" for best practices and legislative policy changes in economic development. Relationship building, an understanding of legislative operations, marketing abilities, and board management are also key traits the GEDA Search Committee will be looking for as they evaluate candidates.

Qualifications. Candidates applying for the President and CEO position should hold a bachelor's degree in the area(s) of economic development, community development, real estate, public relations, public administration, business and/or marketing from an accredited college or university or equivalent experience. A Master's degree is preferred.

Applicants are also required to have at least five years of executive management leadership experience in the economic development and/or community development, business, government relations, chamber of commerce, association field(s), or a combination of these.

Other experiences and skill sets the Search Committee will be looking for include a proven tenure serving as an educator for economic development and / or pro-

business legislative policies; an innovative, creative, and strategic thinker who has experience in developing relevant initiatives and goals for an organization; and an experienced team builder and leader who will effectively represent GEDA's investors in various environments.

How To Apply. Candidates interested in the GEDA position may upload a cover letter addressed to Tim Chason, as well as a copy of their resume, at www.thechasongroup.com. The documents should be submitted in PDF format. The deadline for the materials to be submitted is August 12, 2022. For more information on the position, please contact Tim Chason at 404.735.0540 or via email at tchason@thechasongroup.com; or Randy Cardoza at 404.661.9438 or via email at rcardoza@thechasongroup.com.



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