



Tim Evans, CEcD Chosen to Lead Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce



(Gainesville, Georgia - November 2024) Business leaders with the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce have chosen the new leader for their organization from within. Tim Evans, who currently serves as Senior Vice President of Economic Development, has been approved unanimously by the Executive Committee as the next President and Chief Executive Officer. The chamber selected The Chason Group to lead the search for the organization.

The announcement was made by Brett Fowler, of Turner Wood & Smith Insurance and Chair of the Search Committee; and Glennis Barnes, of Georgia Power Company and current Chair of the Greater Hall Chamber. Evans will be replacing Kit Dunlap, who announced her retirement earlier this year after 26 years leading the chamber.

“Tim has been an integral part of the economic development success of Hall County for many years,” according to Fowler. “Each time the committee reviewed candidates we came back to Tim as someone who has the leadership skills and understanding of the role the chamber plays in marketing Hall County as a great place for businesses to locate and expand as well as families to thrive.”

Evans joined the chamber’s economic development team in 2005. During his time with the organization, he has played a role in increasing annual investments from \$50 million in 2005 to \$2.4 billion between 2015 and 2023. A significant responsibility he currently has with the chamber is working with the Gainesville and Hall County Development Authority. He serves as Treasurer of the Authority.

As a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) by the International Economic Development Council, Evans began his economic development career with the Georgia Department of Economic Development in 1994 as an Associate Project Manager - Business Recruitment and Retention Division. Other positions he held while at the state’s lead marketing agency included Project Manager, Senior Project Manager, Assistant Deputy Commissioner - International, and Director of Projects / Marketing.

“The chamber has a very solid foundation for Tim to build upon in the years to come,” Barnes said. “He has proven himself as someone who is a servant leader and listens to the needs of the business community. Tim has built successful teams internally and externally at the chamber and will serve our community and region well.”

Evans is a native of Jefferson, Georgia and earned a BA in Political Studies and Economics from Oglethorpe University in Atlanta. He studied Economic Analysis at The Washington Center, Washington, D.C., and earned an MBA from the University of Georgia Terry College of Business.

New Contact Information

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Other positions and recognitions Evans has received include: past Chair of the Georgia Economic Developers Association and recipient of the organization's distinguished Rip Wiley Award. He also serves as Chairman, City of Gainesville, TAD Advisory Committee; Board of Directors and Finance Committee, United Way of Hall County; Board of Directors, Northeast Georgia Health Partners; Finance Committee, and Audit Committee, Northeast Georgia Health System. He is a 2009 graduate of Leadership Hall and 2016 graduate of Leadership Georgia.

Evans has a son, Banks, who is a 7th grader at Da Vinci Academy which is a part of the Hall County School System.

The executive search process for the business organization was divided into three segments. The first included listening to community and business leaders about the successes and challenges that face the chamber in the years to come. The second phase was designed to cast the net for candidates. And finally, the third covered an extensive process of evaluating the candidates and their resources.

The President and CEO is responsible for all aspects of operations for the chamber of commerce and reports directly to the Board of Directors through an annually elected Board Chair. The professional provides vision, strategic direction, and management for the programs and personnel of the organization. The leader will spearhead strategic planning, programming, personnel management, public policy and advocacy, and community, economic, and workforce development. The full-time leader serves as the lead spokesperson for the chamber and strategic initiatives, representing the organization's interests to the media, elected officials, and all community and organizational stakeholders.

Other members of the Search Committee, in addition to Fowler and Barnes, included William Bagwell, Homestead Investments; Carol Burrell, Northeast Georgia Health System; Brian Daniel, Carroll Daniel Construction; Randall Frost, Stewart, Melvin & Frost LLP; Tim McDonald, Lanier Technical College; Tate O'Rourke, Jackson EMC; Brian Rochester, Rochester DCCM; Phil Sutton, Kubota Manufacturing of America Corporation; and Philip Wilheit, Sr., Wilheit Packaging - A SupplyOne Company.