

# Position Announcement



## *President and Chief Executive Officer Dalton, Georgia*

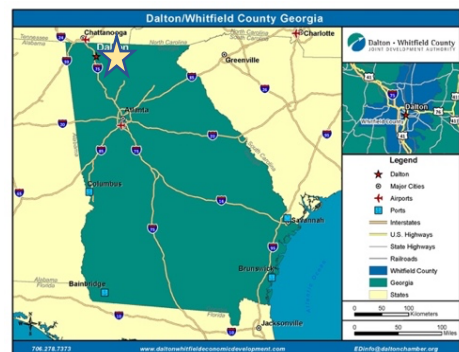
★★★★★ Star Accredited by US Chamber of Commerce

### Key Attributes & Character Traits Required

- Leadership
- Communicator
- Team Builder
- Collaborator
- Advocate
- Visionary

### The Community.

Located in the heart of the Southeast United States, Dalton, and Whitfield County sit on Interstate 75 in Northwest Georgia. The rolling hills near Dalton give way to farm communities in one direction and steep, curving passes in another. The local terrain also features waterfalls, astounding views and an abundance of flora and fauna. Regionally, outdoor activities include hiking as well as biking, horseback riding, spelunking, rock climbing, boating and white-water rafting. The community also has an extensive park system, with parks, playgrounds, golf, ball fields, tennis courts, soccer fields and many other recreation areas.



## Demographics and Business.

The 2020 US Census count places Dalton and Whitfield County with a population of 101,864 citizens. Dalton is a community that's been a center for entrepreneurship, innovation, and manufacturing excellence for decades. The region is ideally situated for big business with the comforts of a small close-knit community. Small businesses and Fortune 500 companies call Dalton home because of a world-class infrastructure, a workforce that embraces the opportunities that manufacturing brings, and a multi-cultural population that makes the area a great place to live and work.

*Education.* The Dalton business community comes from down the street and around the world, and the education systems are geared towards providing young people with the workers that businesses need today, and in the future. The community has two public K-12 systems and a Christian based private K-12 system. In the higher education field, Dalton State College has approximately 5,000 students and an offering of more than 20 bachelor's degrees. Georgia Northwestern Technical College has opened a Whitfield/Murray Campus and is working with the business and industry leaders to provide Programs of Work that will prepare students for the positions available in industry.

*Healthcare.* Hamilton Health Care System is a not-for-profit, fully united system of care serving the northwest Georgia region. The Dalton-based flagship of the system, Hamilton Medical Center, is a 255-bed regional acute-care hospital that offers major medical, surgical and diagnostic services, including award-winning, accredited stroke and chest pain centers.

*Utilities.* Dalton Utilities has operated as a public utility since 1889 and provides potable water, electrical, natural gas and wastewater treatment services to approximately 65,000 customers in the City of Dalton and portions of Whitfield, Murray, Gordon, Catoosa and Floyd counties. In 2003, Dalton Utilities' Technology sector launched a fiber-to-the-premise operation, OptiLink, which provides broadband, cable tv, telephone and internet services to residential and business customers in the Dalton area. Other suppliers of electric utilities include Georgia Power and North Georgia Electric Membership Corporation.







camp for Middle School students), and Government Affairs.

### The Greater Dalton Chamber.

The Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization that serves over 1,000 businesses in the region. With a fulltime team of eleven professionals, the chamber is recognized as the leader for positive growth in the community. The organization is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The annual budget is approximately \$1.1 million.

Key programs for the chamber include Leadership Dalton-Whitfield, Hispanic Advisory Council, Emerging Leaders, Literacy Mentorship, Camp DEM (Design, Engineering, and Manufacturing summer

camp for Middle School students), and Government Affairs. Economic development operates under the umbrella of the chamber with its own team and is led by a Board of Directors, appointed by local governments, to the Joint Development Authority of Dalton and Whitfield County. Shaw Industries, Inc./U.S. Floors, Mohawk Industries, and Engineered Floors, LLC/J+J Flooring Group are the top three employers in the region. One of the latest wins for Dalton is GEDIA Automotive Group, a family-owned international company that specializes in making state-of-the-art automotive parts. The company is building an advanced manufacturing facility that will begin production with a focus on parts for electric vehicles. GEDIA will invest \$85 million in this project, delivering 200 jobs to the greater Dalton area at a Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) certified property in Whitfield County.

Believe Greater Dalton (BGD), also led by its own team, is a five-year strategic plan for the community, initiated by the Greater Dalton Chamber, to keep focus on what must be done to continue to be a thriving, growing, competitive community. The initial research and assessment phase of the effort began back in 2016 when over 2,200 citizens of Dalton/Whitfield County responded to a survey share their thoughts on how the community was performing. Those responses helped BGD officially launch in January of 2018 focused on six strategies of entrepreneurship, downtown, economic development, housing, education, and community pride. Working together in collaboration with a variety of community partners, BGD has made progress in all six areas, but the process of planning for the future never ends for successful communities. As the end of this first five years comes to a close, the co-chairs of the BGD effort unanimously decided to update the plan to be sure the community continues to be focused on the right strategies and priorities for Greater Dalton’s next five years. The process of updating BGD began in September 2021 when a planning committee of local leadership was formed to help guide the effort forward, and another survey was launched.



## President and CEO Position.

The President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce needs to be a dynamic collaborator and communicator who understands a diverse culture and population as it relates to the business community. The professional is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the chamber as a non-profit business organization. Leadership, communications, government relations/public policy, and building partnerships for economic, community and regional development are key responsibilities of the professional.



Other organization accountable duties include financial growth and management, talent development, and innovative strategic planning and implementation. The executive reports to the Executive Board and Board of Directors through an annually elected Chair.

### *Education and Experience.*

Candidates for the president's position should hold a bachelor's degree, with a master's degree desired, in the area(s) of association management, public relations, business and/or marketing from an accredited college or university or equivalent experience. Applicants should have at least five years of executive management leadership experience in the chamber of commerce, association, business, economic development and/or community development field, or a combination of these.

The Board of Directors is seeking professionals who are highly skilled in motivational techniques and directive group dynamics in order to guide committees to the successful completion of assigned goals; an innovative, creative, and strategic thinker who has experience in developing relevant programs and goals to enhance the quality of life in the region; and an experienced collaborator, team builder and leader who will effectively represent the chamber in many environments.

## How To Apply.

The Greater Dalton Chamber has retained the executive search services of The Chason Group to lead the process. Candidates interested in the President and CEO position may upload a cover letter addressed to Tim Chason, as well as a copy of their resume, at [www.thechasongroup.com](http://www.thechasongroup.com). The deadline for cover letters and resumes to be submitted is January 3, 2022.

For more information on the position, please contact Tim Chason at 404.735.0540 or via email at [tchason@thechasongroup.com](mailto:tchason@thechasongroup.com).

