

Jackson County Area Chamber Names Murriel Wiley to Director, Economic Development Position

(Jefferson, Georgia- March 2026) - Murriel Wiley has been named Director, Economic Development for the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce in Jefferson, Georgia. The Chason Group led the executive search for the chamber.

The announcement was made by Steve Wittry, President and Chief Executive Officer of the chamber, and also a placement by The Chason Group.

“Economic development has many components,” according to Wittry. “Those include recruitment of new manufacturing as well as assisting our existing businesses. Murriel brings a tremendous amount of experience and energy to the chamber in those areas and many others, like entrepreneurship, small business development, and workforce development.”

Wiley most recently served as a Fellow for the Economic Development Recovery Corps, a multi-year, \$30 million collaborative initiative designed to accelerate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in distressed communities and regions throughout the U.S. by connecting organizations with the talent and capacity needed to advance new ways of doing economic development that promote economic resilience and transformative change. The program is led by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) in partnership with several other business-focused organizations.

Her career experience also includes time as Program Coordinator for the CREATE BRIDGES Economic Development Pilot Project through the University of Arkansas, and Executive Director of the Sevier Chamber of Commerce in De Queen, Arkansas.

Wiley holds a bachelor’s degree in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Arkansas, where she was a public radio scholarship recipient before becoming News Director and Morning Show Host for KDQN 92.1 FM in De Queen.

“I am very thankful for the opportunity to learn and grow with Jackson County,” she said. “I look forward to becoming engaged in the county, region, and state over the next several months. Georgia has a lot to offer, and I’m excited for the privilege to work in economic development here.”

In 2022, Wiley earned first place in the National Federation of Press Women awards contest “Web & Social Media” category for a podcast she produced called “*Bilingual in Business*”.

The Director, Economic Development operates under the chamber’s umbrella of services through an agreement with the Jackson County Industrial Development Authority and Jackson County Board of Commissioners. Wiley’s key



New Contact Information

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responsibilities will include collaborating with these groups and others by providing vision, strategic direction, and management of the programs and activities associated with economic development in Jackson County.

The Chason Group, an executive search firm specializing in chambers of commerce, economic development, foundations, tourism organizations, and other non-profits, led the executive search process for the chamber.