



**WAYCROSS-WARE COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
"Where the Ways Cross"

Jonathan Lupo Named President and CEO of Waycross-Ware Development Authority

(Waycross, Georgia) Jonathan Lupo, an experienced state and local economic developer, has been named President and Chief Executive Officer of the Waycross-Ware County Development Authority (WWDA). The announcement was made this week by James Willis, Chair of the authority and Area Manager for Georgia Power Company, following a unanimous vote by the board. WWDA engaged The Chason Group to lead the executive search process.

"The authority was looking for a professional in the economic development field to take us to the next level of creating and retaining jobs in our community," according to Willis. "Jonathan brings a wealth of knowledge and contacts with him. He has worked in two different states, including Georgia, on the state economic development team as well as on the local level. He understands the needs of communities and has a grasp of rural areas as well."

Lupo most recently served as Director, Business Recruitment for the Douglas County Development Authority in Douglasville, Georgia. His most notable new business wins in Douglas County included Stitch Fix, an e-logistics facility that created 981 net new jobs and BANG Energy, a manufacturing/distribution operation that created 600 jobs.

Other positions held by Lupo include International Project Manager, Office of International Commerce with Louisiana Economic Development; International Trade Policy and Special Projects Manager, Georgia Department of Economic Development; and an associate with J.L. Morgan Company, Inc., a public affairs and issues management consulting firm.



New Contact Information

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"In our search for a professional, we utilized the solid foundation the board and Jana Dyke, former leader of the authority, have established for the community," Willis said. "In the past five years, the WWDA moved from a reorganized economic development entity to one with strong ties to project managers at the state level and site consultants nationwide. There is an existing industry program in place; a website with key information on our available sites; and a structure for operating as an authority. All of these pieces were used to let candidates know about the position and the stability of our organization."

Lupo graduated from Georgia College in Milledgeville, Georgia with Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Administration degrees. He participated in Douglas County Leadership Program 2020 and has been active in the Boys and Girls Club and Gift of Love Soup Kitchen.

“To serve Waycross and Ware County as the economic development leader is a tremendous opportunity for me and my family,” according to Lupo. “I look forward to initiating meetings with local industries and businesses during my first few months on the ground. I want to learn more about their operations and how the authority can assist them. I also plan to spend a great deal of time continuing to market the community to the Georgia Department of Economic Development and three statewide electric utility companies.”

The mission of the development authority is to encourage and support the expansion and development of industrial and commercial facilities in Waycross and Ware County so as to promote employment and improve the community’s tax base. The economic development organization is funded by the City of Waycross and Ware County Board of Commissioners.

Current authority members include Willis; Daniel Morris, WWDA Vice Chair, Senior Vice President, First Southern Bank; Philip Saussy, WWDA Treasurer, Senior Vice President Benefits Practice Leader, J. Smith Lanier & Company; Dr. William Clark III, Clark Eye Clinic; Dr. Michael-Angelo James, Mayor of Waycross; Candice Moody-Rice, Media Specialist, Ware County High School; Dr. Yolanda Rivers, Owner, Waycross Family Pharmacy; and Elmer Thrift, Chair, Ware County Board of Commissioners.

The search for a new economic development leader began late last year when Dyke announced her plans to accept the top position with the Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission in Albany, Georgia.

The Chason Group, which is Georgia based, specializes in executive searches for economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, foundations and other non-profits.