



The Appalachian Regional Port is a joint effort of the state of Georgia, Murray County, the Georgia Ports Authority and CSX Transportation.

Position Announcement

President and Chief Executive Officer

Overview. The Chason Group, Inc. has been selected to conduct an executive search for a President and Chief Executive Officer for the Murray County Industrial Development Authority in Chatsworth, Georgia. Tim Chason and Randy Cardoza of The Chason Group are working with the economic development organization's leadership to coordinate the executive search.

The Community. Chatsworth, the county seat of Murray County, is a part of the Dalton, Georgia MSA. The county has a population of over 40,000 citizens. Chatsworth is located approximately 45 miles from Chattanooga, Tennessee and 85 miles from Atlanta, Georgia.

The community is served by several education institutions including Murray County Public Schools. Dalton State College, less than 15 minutes from Chatsworth, is a part of the University System of Georgia and offers targeted bachelor's degrees, a full range of associate's degrees and career certificate programs.

Georgia Northwestern Technical College is a major asset to the area. With programs of study in business, health, industrial, and public service available, students have the opportunity to earn an associate's degree, diploma, or a career certificate.

Other education centers in the area include Reinhardt University and Chattahoochee Technical College.

Natural Playgrounds. North Georgia and Murray County have much to offer when it comes to the outdoors. One-third of the county is protected forest - meaning it can never be developed.

Carters Lake is the deepest lake in Georgia, boasting 547 feet at the dam. Other outdoor attractions include Lake Conasauga Recreation Area, Cohutta Wilderness Area, Fort Mountain State Park and two golf courses.

Chatsworth-Murray County, Georgia is positioned in the northwest corner of Georgia, with easy access to:

- Interstate 75 – 15 miles west
- U.S. 76 and U.S. 411, and state routes 2, 52, 61, 225, 282 and 286 – direct access
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport – less than a two-hour drive
- Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport – less than one hour away
- CSX rail – direct access



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About the Murray County IDA. The IDA is composed of seven members appointed by the county's sole commissioner. Staggered terms are in place. Financial support for the economic development organization is derived from public and private sector funds.

Moving Product. The Appalachian Regional Port is designed to move national and international shipments efficiently and effectively to and from the Georgia Ports Authority's Garden City Terminal in Savannah via rail. With easy transport to the Port of Savannah, manufacturers have found Chatsworth-Murray County an ideal location for getting goods to market. Each round-trip container moved via the ARP offsets 710 truck miles on Georgia highways.

Existing Industries. Murray County has a strong base of existing industries. Long-time employers include Mohawk Industries, Shaw Industries, Chlewich Sultan and Cimbar Performance Minerals.

Huali Floors, a China-based manufacturer of resilient flooring, has established its first U.S. headquarters and manufacturing facility in Murray County. The company has created over 300 new jobs and invested more than \$27 million. General Electric Appliances is another newcomer to the community. The \$32 million investment has created over 100 new jobs.

Position Requirements. Candidates should hold a Bachelor's degree in the area(s) of economic development, real estate, public relations, business and/or marketing from an accredited college or university or equivalent experience. Candidates are expected to have three years of executive management leadership experience in the business, economic development and/or community development field, chamber of commerce, association, or a combination of these.

Other key skill sets for the position include a proven tenure in leading an organization through visionary growth and meaningful change to improve the business environment of the community.

A successful track record of working with a board of directors, governments and community stakeholders is also important for candidates.

How To Apply. For more information regarding the executive search process for the President and CEO position with the Murray County IDA, please contact Tim Chason at 404/735-0540 or Randy Cardoza at 404.661.9438. A cover letter and resume may be uploaded at www.thechasongroup.com. The deadline for materials to be submitted is September 18, 2020. The anticipated start date for the position is November/December.

