



## Niki Ogletree Named President and CEO of Valdosta-Lowndes Development Authority

(Valdosta, Georgia - April 2025) Kathryn Y. Ogletree (Niki) has been named President & Chief Executive Officer of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority (VLCDA), the organization responsible for driving economic development and business growth in the Valdosta-Lowndes County region. The announcement was made by Brad Folsom, Chair of the VLCDA Board.

The Chason Group (TCG) was retained by the Development Authority to lead the executive search.

Ogletree, who had been serving as Interim Executive Director for the Development Authority, brings extensive experience in economic development, strategic planning, and stakeholder engagement. She has been instrumental in fostering regional partnerships, attracting new industries, and strengthening the business ecosystem in Valdosta-Lowndes County.

"Niki has demonstrated outstanding leadership and a deep commitment to economic growth in our region," said Folsom. "Her ability to build strong relationships, execute strategic initiatives, and advocate for business expansion makes her the ideal professional to lead VLCDA into its next phase of success."

Prior to her current role, Ogletree served as executive director for institutional effectiveness at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, where she worked closely with industries to develop workforce training programs and ensure alignment between education and employer needs. She has also held leadership roles in higher education administration and strategic planning, bringing a data-driven approach to economic development efforts.

A Valdosta native, Ogletree holds a Master of Science in Adult and Continuing Education with a concentration in Psychology from the University of West Alabama and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Valdosta State University. She has been actively involved in community leadership, serving on



### **New Contact Information**

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boards for Easterseals, Greater Valdosta United Way, One Valdosta-Lowndes, and the College and Career Academy Steering Committee.

"I am honored to be chosen to lead the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority and continue building on the organization's success," said Ogletree. "Economic development is about creating opportunities for businesses and residents alike, and I look forward to working with stakeholders across the region to drive investment, job creation, and community growth."

Ogletree and her husband Lee, Senior Department Chair of English at Georgia Military College, have a son, Owen, who is an eighth grader at Valdosta Middle School STEM Academy

The Chason Group is an executive search firm specializing in economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, foundations, and other nonprofit groups.