



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT



VALDOSTA-LOWNDES
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ADVOCATE | BUILD | CONNECT | PROMOTE

President and Chief Executive Officer

Overview. The Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce, based in Valdosta, Georgia, has retained The Chason Group to lead an executive level search for a President and Chief Executive Officer. Tim Chason and Randy Cardoza are working with the leadership of chamber to coordinate the process.

About the Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber. The Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce is comprised of more than 1,100 members. Established on Sept. 1, 1912, the business organization is the 7th largest in Georgia and is accredited as a five-star chamber by the US Chamber of Commerce.

The organization has an annual budget of over \$600,000 and a staff of five full-time professionals. The Board of Directors is comprised of 18 members, including the President and General Counsel. Seven major committees and programs, led by more than 200 volunteers, keep the chamber's mission "to serve as the voice of business in our community" in the forefront.

The Community. Valdosta is designated by the US Census Bureau as a Metropolitan Statistical Area with a population of approximately 147,292 residents located in a four-county region.



The community's average age is 27.6 and the growth rate over the past ten years is nine percent. A workforce of 177,719 is within a 45-minute drive of Valdosta.

Tabbed the Azalea City of the South, Valdosta is known for its year-round temperate climate, strong business community - retail, professional and manufacturing, health care providers and training, education opportunities and agriculture production.

Ranked among the top regional universities in the South and home to students from all 50 states and more than 60 countries, Valdosta State University offers nationally distinctive programs in the arts, business, education, engineering & mathematics, health professions, public administration and more.

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College's main campus is located in Valdosta. With enrollment reaching over 6,000 students, Wiregrass offers programs of study including: Business, Computer Science & Digital Media, Health Care, Professional Services, Technical & Industrial and Online.

Other education institutions in the area include Georgia Military College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Park University.

THE CHASON GROUP, INC.

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The Position. The President and Chief Executive Officer of the chamber is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the non-profit business organization. Financial growth and management, talent development, and innovative strategic planning and implementation are key responsibilities of the President. Providing oversight for the Valdosta Area Business Incubator construction project will be a significant accountability project for the President over the next 18 months. The professional reports to the Board of Directors through an annually elected Chair.

Key Attributes. The Search Committee for the chamber is seeking a professional who has the understanding of how a business-focused non-profit organization functions and its importance to the success of a community. Leadership, financial stability, strategic planning, staff development, communications (written, verbal and social media), team building, professionalism and business knowledge are key attributes required for the position.

Requirements. Candidates applying for the President's position should hold a Bachelor's degree, with a Master's degree desired, in the area(s) of public relations, association management, business and/or marketing from an accredited college or university or equivalent experience.

Moody Air Force Base

Moody Air Force Base is an Air Combat Command base located near Valdosta. The base is known for the 23rd Wing Flying Tigers. The 23d Fighter Group is responsible for flying and maintaining what is said to be the Air Force's largest A-10C fighter group. The military unit employs approximately 8,000 people.

Other requirements include a minimum of five years of executive management leadership experience in the business, chamber of commerce, association, economic development and/or community development field, or a combination of these.

Also, the professional should have a proven extended tenure in leading an organization through visionary growth and meaningful change to improve the business environment of a community; staff training and development experience; and public speaking.

How to Apply. Candidates interested in the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber's position may upload a cover letter addressed to Tim Chason, as well as a copy of their resume, at www.thechasongroup.com. The deadline to submit the documents is September 4, 2020. Only PDF documents will be accepted. Anticipated start date for the new executive is late 2020.

For more information on the position, please contact Tim Chason at 404.735.0540 or Randy Cardoza at 404.661.9438