

Waycross-Ware County Development Authority Selects Jana Dyke As Executive Director



Jana Dyke

(For Immediate Release – December, 2016) The board of the Waycross-Ware County Development Authority has voted unanimously to select Jana Dyke as executive director of the economic development agency. She will begin her new role on January 3.

“We are very excited about this major step in putting our community back on the map in terms of economic development,” says Dr. William Clark, chair of the development authority. “Jana has impressed the board with her ability to understand our community and needs of the organization. She is experienced in the marketing arena and possesses the skill set required to develop relationships on local, regional, state and national levels.”

Jana currently serves as director of the Sylvester Main Street/Downtown Development Authority. She has also held positions with the Lee County (Georgia) Chamber of Commerce, Destin Area (Florida) Chamber of Commerce, Santa Rosa Beach (Florida) Chamber of Commerce and Real Living Realty Advisors in Valdosta, Georgia.

“I have been a part of economic development for the past 15 years through my work with development authorities and chambers of commerce,” according to Jana. “The WWFDA executive director’s position will give me an opportunity to build upon those foundations and be a part of increasing the tax base and employment prospects for the community. The assets of this community provide an excellent base for existing and new businesses to operate. I look forward to working with the members of the development authority and other stakeholders to become a part of the economic engine that moves Waycross and Ware County forward.”

The organization initiated a search in late July to identify a professional to take the helm of the authority. The group spent a considerable amount of time over the past month interviewing candidates who met the qualifications outlined in a position description.

“Probably one of the most important projects for Jana to initiate during her first six months will be the process of creating an economic development website that markets our community,” Dr. Clark said. “We have been reviewing our available industrial sites over the past few months in preparation for a marketing push.”

Development authority members have identified several additional key areas for Jana to focus on during her inaugural year. Getting to know the community in terms of available resources and establishing a strategic plan for the development authority are at the top of the list. Other items include developing relationships with current partners involved in

New Contact Information

Jana Dyke

Executive Director
Waycross-Ware County
Development Authority
2855 Forest Drive
Waycross, GA 31503
(t) 912-283-2112
(c) 912-237-7782
(f) 912-283-2113
jana@wwda.us

workforce development for the region and establishing relationships with statewide economic development agencies and site consultants.

Stakeholder interviews were conducted of authority members, elected officials, business advocates, and statewide economic development leaders. Feedback from those discussions provided the authority with a foundation for the development of a position description and the qualifications for candidates. Also, character traits were identified by the stakeholders as key factors when searching for the new executive.

“I am extremely proud of how the members of the development authority worked together to select the best professional to lead our community,” Dr. Clark added. “This has truly been a team effort. The mix of expertise on the board has made a positive impact on the candidates and the search process.”

Other members of the development authority include include, Ware County Commission Chairman Jimmy Brown, Waycross Mayor John Knox, Pam Hart, Daniel Morris, Dr. Yolanda Rivers, James Willis, and Ty Wright.

Jana and her husband William have two boys, ages eight and eleven. The family will be moving to Ware County in December following the end of the school semester. Their plans are to enroll their children in the Ware County School System in January 2017.

The Chason Group (www.thechasongroup.com), an executive search firm specializing in economic development, assisted the authority in the process of selecting Jana.