

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT



President and Chief Executive Officer

Overview.

The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce has initiated a search for the President and Chief Executive Officer position. The Chason Group has been retained to assist the Chamber with the executive search.

The Chamber works closely with community leaders to advocate, educate, and connect members for the growth and development of the Hall County, Georgia area business community. With a budget of \$2.3 million and a staff of 13 professionals, the Chamber serves as a voice for the business community. The Chamber, located in Gainesville, was founded in 1908 and serves the cities of Gainesville, Flowery Branch, Oakwood, Clermont, Gillsville, Lula, Braselton, and Buford.

Kit Dunlap, current President and CEO, is retiring after serving the organization for over 26 years. The Board of Directors is seeking a strong visionary to take the reins and build upon the successes gained during Dunlap's tenure. A competitive compensation package is offered for the President and Chief Executive Officer role, including health insurance, life insurance, retirement and more.



About the Greater Hall Area.

The Gainesville-Hall County area is continuously ranked as a top producing metropolitan area in Georgia and in 2023 was recognized by Site Selection magazine as one of the "Top Small Metros in the Nation for Job Creation and Investment." Hall County is home to the 104-acre Blue Ridge Connector inland port and has easy access to Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta. In addition to the business-friendly community, Hall County was recognized as one of the 2024 best places to live in Niche Magazine.

Hall County is home to Lake Lanier, the largest lake in Georgia, which offers a multitude of water sports to visitors and locals. Gainesville is also home to the beautiful Atlanta Botanical Gardens of Gainesville, Lake Lanier Olympic Park, the Northeast Georgia History Center, Road Atlanta, and Midland Greenway which plays a part in the redevelopment plan for downtown Gainesville and will connect to the Highlands to Islands trail system.

Downtown Gainesville has gone through a significant revitalization and offers a wide range of eateries, shopping, and entertainment. Several brand-new apartment buildings offer downtown living, and the new JW Marriott Hotel offers a place for visitors to stay just blocks from the central Gainesville square. There are also a variety of events in downtown Gainesville that offer fun for everyone.

The Greater Hall County area offers top notch public and private schools. Gainesville City School System is a charter system featuring eight charter schools with five elementary schools open to parental choice. The Hall County School System offers 20 elementary schools, six middle, six high schools, and one evening/alternative high school. There are also many private schools in the area, including Lakeview Academy, Riverside Preparatory School, and Lanier Christian Academy. The county is home to Brenau University, the University of North Georgia, and Lanier Technical College. The business community is very involved with area schools to offer pathways for students in their careers.

Northeast Georgia Health System, headquartered in the county, has a 613-bed flagship hospital in Gainesville that is a Level I trauma unit. Northeast Georgia Medical Center is home to the Women's and Children's pavilion that offers a Level III NICU and the Ronnie Green Heart Center, a specialized ICU and critical care unit. The health system is experiencing major expansions that will be completed in 2025 and 2026 to better serve the community. The Braselton expansion will bring the hospital bed count to 284, expand the emergency department, add additional operating rooms, and more parking for patients. The system offers many specialty outpatient facilities to the area and employs 12,000.



Hall County is in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains for visitors and locals who appreciate their beauty. It is close to Chateau Elan in Braselton, the state's largest wine producer that hosts visitors with an offering of award-winning wines, food, a speakeasy and bourbon bar, spa and more. The resort attracts people for business meetings, family events or just a trip to the beautiful 3,500-acre vineyard and resort.

Hall County offers a balance of work and play for their residents. While home to a multitude of employers in manufacturing, healthcare, top notch school systems and a thriving tourism industry, the area offers entertainment for everyone and has a wide array of living options from downtown living to lake living.



About the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce.

The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce is a well-established organization with a talented team ready to add and expand upon existing accomplishments for the business community. The Chamber works to make connections to ensure growth and success for their 2,500+ members and the Gainesville-Hall County business community as a whole.

The Chamber strives to fill their member's needs through a wide range of programs that include economic development, networking and referrals, small business programs, government relations, leadership programs, healthcare, education, and workforce development. The Chamber's goal is to ensure impactful connections for their members' success.

Economic development is a major focus of the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce. Over 25 years ago, community leadership invested in an initiative called HALLTogether, now called HALLMark 2020-2025, an aggressive five-year economic development plan that secured \$2.3 million in major investments. The initiative ensures high-quality jobs, an educated and skilled workforce, a growing tax base, and a business-friendly environment. The goals are achieved through the collaboration of the Economic Development Council, Workforce Development Task Force, Education and Leadership programs, and Small Business Development programs run by the Chamber.

Vision 2030, another focus of the Chamber, aims to position the community as the most "enviable community in Georgia by the year 2030." The initiative was started in 2005 and encouraged everyone in Hall County to share their vision of how they wanted their community to be. Planning groups were developed to ensure collaboration from every aspect of the community including government, education, business, and non-profit organizations. The community was encouraged to participate as the long-term plans and the Vision 2030 board and committees were developed. The long-term initiatives continue through the work of and include the Public Art Committee, the Greenspace Committee, and the NextGen Hall County group. The Chamber is the catalyst for the many initiatives to make Hall County one of the most sought-after areas for business and families. The organization focuses on the balance of work and play to ensure the happiness of the communities they serve.



About the Position.

The President and Chief Executive Officer is responsible for all aspects of operations for the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce and reports directly to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors through an annually elected Chairman. The professional provides vision, strategic direction, and management for the programs and personnel of the organization. The leader demonstrates expertise in collaboration, nonprofit governance and operations, financial management, marketing, public policy and advocacy, and community, economic, and workforce development. The President and CEO serves as the lead spokesperson for the Chamber and strategic initiatives, representing the organization's interests to the media, elected officials, and all community and organizational stakeholders. The professional is charged with the proficient management of all resources at the Chamber's disposal, including both team members and volunteer efforts. These resources must be expertly deployed to align with the mission of the organization and to advance the growth and prosperity of the Chamber and community. The professional is recognized as a dynamic leader with high integrity. Key skill sets required include the ability to manage and support current programs; develop new initiatives and collaborative partnerships; and to lead and engage all Chamber stakeholders.

Education and Experience Requirements.

- Bachelor's degree in the area(s) of association management, economic development, community development, public relations, public administration, business and/or marketing from an accredited college or university or equivalent experience.
- A Certificate in Nonprofit Organization Management through the U.S. Chamber Institute of Management (IOM) and the professional designation of Certified Chamber Executive (CCE) are highlight preferred. In the absence of these professional credentials, a strong desire to achieve them at the earliest opportunity is the expectation from the Board of the chosen candidate.
- Five years of executive-level leadership experience with a Chamber of Commerce, non-profit organization, and / or business of similar scale and complexity, with demonstrated working knowledge of business, public policy, community development, economic development, event planning and program development.
- A proven tenure in implementing a visionary strategic plan in collaboration with a diverse and influential body of organizational stakeholders.
- An innovative, creative, and strategic thinker who has experience in developing relevant initiatives and goals to enhance a region's tax base and a track record of proven results.

How to Apply.

The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce has retained TCG to lead the executive search process. Professionals interested in applying for the President and Chief Executive Officer's position may upload a cover letter and a copy of their resume at www.thechasongroup.com to be considered for the position. The most qualified candidates will receive a detailed application to determine if an interview is required. The deadline for submitting the initial materials is September 6, 2024. Candidates will be reviewed by TCG utilizing a weighting scale approved by the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce Search Committee. For more information, contact Tim Chason at 404.735.0540 or tchason@thechasongroup.com.