



NEWS RELEASE

Dec. 11, 2013

Contact:
Jackie Broach, public information officer
Phone: (843) 545-3164
E-mail: jbroach@gtcounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tucker joins county staff as new director of economic development

GEORGETOWN COUNTY — Brian Tucker, the president and CEO of the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce, has been hired as the new director of economic development for Georgetown County.

A resident of the Pawleys Island area, Tucker replaces Wayne Gregory, who left the county in August for a position with the City of Columbia. County Administrator Sel Hemingway has been acting as economic development director since then, while searching for a candidate with the right combination of experience and abilities to boldly move the county to the next level in recruiting new businesses and helping existing businesses to thrive. Tucker was selected from a list of qualified applicants from all regions of the country, Hemingway said.

He described Tucker as energetic, enthusiastic, visionary and self-motivated, as well as morally and ethically solid. Tucker was selected for his position with the Chamber in part because of his personality and ability to reach out to a broad spectrum of the community and get everyone working together, and those were certainly aspects that made him an appealing candidate for economic development director.

“Brian has demonstrated the ability to build relationships and is fully capable of nurturing existing relationships with current allies while developing new ones,” Hemingway said. “He is goal-oriented with the focus and determination to succeed, and his inherent interest is to enhance the quality of life and job opportunities in Georgetown County, which his family has adopted as their home. Brian brings a new perspective to the position of economic development director. He understands the need to assist existing industries in expanding their businesses and to actively recruit new industrial prospects. Additionally, he recognizes the opportunities that exist in developing knowledge-based and entrepreneurial jobs. I am fully confident that Brian is the right choice to move Georgetown County forward in the Economic Development arena.”

Since moving to Georgetown County to lead the Chamber in July 2012, Tucker has focused on forming partnerships and collaborations with all stakeholders in the county, and said that will not change in his new role. The move will simply allow him to dedicate more energy into telling the world about the opportunities that exist in Georgetown County.

“I am honored and eager to accept the position as director of economic development for Georgetown County. This is a unique opportunity to build on the relationships with the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce and the Alliance for Economic Development, and operate as a team with a common mission — a prosperous and progressive Georgetown County,” Tucker said. “I have developed a great respect for Georgetown County’s place in history, as well as the quality of life we currently enjoy. I also recognize the tremendous opportunities that we have. We have abundant resources including a proven workforce, solid infrastructure and our unique natural resources.”

Dredging the Georgetown port will be a top priority for Tucker, along with diversifying the county’s economic base.

“We have to press forward while addressing these issues,” Tucker said. “Georgetown County is a prime candidate for a number of projects from existing industries as well as new companies looking to invest and create jobs.”

Jenna Jordan, board chair for the Chamber, said she and the rest of the board fully support Tucker’s new role as economic development director, though they are sad to lose him at the Chamber.

“He has done a wonderful job with the Chamber and he will do a wonderful job promoting Georgetown County and recruiting jobs that will put our residents to work,” Jordan said. “We were aware that he was being considered for the position and encouraged him to apply. During Brian’s time at the Chamber, he worked very hard to build strong partnerships with the county, the Alliance for Economic Development, and all of the various community stakeholders. Brian understands the power of working together toward a common goal, and we are excited about the future of Georgetown County. With us all working together there is so much that can be accomplished.”

Tucker was previously employed as president and CEO of the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce for four years, during which time he was able to increase revenue, membership and attendance at chamber events. He also increased member communication and engagement through direct contact and a new website, and created annual sponsorship packages, which increased sponsors and sponsorship revenue by 20 percent.

A life-long South Carolinian, Tucker grew up in Lancaster and is a 1997 graduate of Clemson University with a bachelor’s degree in financial management. He worked in mortgage loans before joining the North Augusta Chamber.

He and his wife, Margaret, have two daughters, Margaret Ann, 12, and Lily, 9.

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