



## MEMORANDUM

**TO: GEDA MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

**FROM: BENJY THOMPSON, CHAIR**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2022**

**RE: GRANT CAGLE NAMED GEDA PRESIDENT AND CEO**

Today I am pleased to announce the GEDA Board of Directors has voted unanimously to name Grant Cagle as the next President and Chief Executive Officer of your statewide economic development organization. His first day in the position will be Monday, November 28.

Grant is a native Georgian and started his career in the economic development arena in 2015 as Marketing & Communications Assistant for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. His responsibilities included creating and developing all social media platforms.

In January 2017, Grant joined the Electric Cities of Georgia economic development team as a Project Manager. Two years later, Grant was promoted to a Senior Project Manager level and in 2021 was selected to serve in his current position of Manager, Industrial Development, Economic Development for ECG. Grant is responsible for member engagement; assisting with strategic planning, marketing analyses, community marketing strategies, and business recruitment; and regularly meeting with political, regional, and local officials, partnering to bring jobs, investment, and load growth for member cities. Grant has been a member of GEDA since 2015. He and his wife, Meghan, have three children and live in Marietta.

The Search Committee and the Board feel Grant has what it takes to move GEDA forward by building on the solid foundation that has been established since our incorporation as a 501(c)(6) organization in 1975. Speaking on behalf of the Board, I can share with you our excitement to move forward on strategic goals that have been developed over the past few years. One of those is to become more actively engaged in state and federal legislative and policy issues affecting GEDA's members and their communities by serving as a known go-to resource for economic development.

As background, the Search Committee developed a position description, weighting scale, and competitive compensation package to identify candidates. A position announcement was placed on various economic development job posting websites, LinkedIn, and distributed to economic developers nationwide. Personal calls were also made to numerous potential candidates to gauge interest in the seat. Twenty-five candidates from five states presented resumes. Detailed applications were sent to the most qualified candidates. Nine of those were completed and three withdrew prior to completing the document. The Search Committee received resumes, detailed applications, and suggested questions for the top six candidates. Two interview sessions were held with the leading candidates.

I want to thank members of the Search Committee for the many volunteer hours they committed to the process. Members include Dorie Bacon (GDEcD), Misti Martin (Cherokee Office of Economic Development), Chris Pumphrey (Elevate Douglas Economic Partnership), Andrea Schrujier (Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority), Trip Tollison (Savannah Economic Development Authority), and Cal Wray (Augusta Economic Development Authority).

GEDA's primary mission is to serve as the resource for networking, professional development, and public policy for Georgia's economic development community. Your commitment to this mission is one of the components that makes Georgia the number one state in the country to do business. Thank you for your continued support of GEDA. Please join me in welcoming Grant to his new position.