

SUMMARY
President & Chief Executive Officer
Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County
Tacoma, Washington

The Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County is a 501c(6) nonprofit economic development organization focused on helping Tacoma-Pierce County businesses reach their pure potential. The organization specializes in serving companies interested in locating their business in the city of Tacoma and throughout Pierce County. Helping companies create new jobs and grow the economy of the South Sound is the EDB's driving force. It has led the organization to work with companies that have brought more than \$1.6BB in capital investments and over 25,000 jobs to the region over the past two decades. Currently, more than 80 public- and private-sector investors have committed resources that enable the EDB to deliver cutting-edge services to businesses looking to create jobs in Tacoma-Pierce County. The EDB's ongoing strategy is guided by a 5-year Work Plan and primarily funded by a capital campaign. The last capital campaign, launched in 2020, raised \$7MM. More information is on the EDB website: www.choosetacomapierce.org

Tacoma and Pierce County offer an outstanding quality of life, with a County population of over 925,000. Pierce County is also home to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, one of the largest joint military bases in the United States. Key industries in this region include aerospace, technology, manufacturing, logistics, and healthcare. Pierce County is an ideal place to do business because of its positive attitude toward business, robust and talented workforce, and access to affordable energy. The Port of Tacoma is a leading gateway to Asia and the rest of the world, and the University of Washington Tacoma is a major research and teaching center that attracts talent nationally and internationally.

The President & Chief Executive Officer reports to the EDB's 45+ member Board of Directors (which includes a 9-member Executive Committee). The CEO will supervise the EDB staff: Vice President-Business Development, Vice President-Business Retention & Recruitment, Vice President-Recruitment, and Director-Operations, along with an Accountant and Newsletter Writer, both of whom are part-time contractors. The organization has also budgeted for another full-time staff position, and the next CEO can determine that role's responsibilities and qualifications. The staff members operate within a hybrid schedule, including in-office and remote work.

The CEO is accountable to the EDB Board for exercising strong leadership and will work closely with the staff team to establish and adopt short and long-term goals, plans, and strategies. This executive must inspire regional private and public sector leaders to work together to strengthen the position of Tacoma-Pierce County and the South Sound region in a highly competitive national and global business marketplace. This includes responsibility for the sustained financial performance of this organization to ensure sufficient resources are available and aligned to produce maximum potential. The CEO is accountable for establishing and maintaining positive and productive relationships with board members, investors, site selectors, local and national media, and other stakeholders. This executive secures financial investments, assures active engagement from regional leaders, and acts as the organization's public face. The CEO is expected to travel within the region and state of Washington, as well as nationally and occasionally internationally, such as to the Farnborough Airshow in England and the Paris Airshow in France.

The ideal candidate will have extensive experience in a broad leadership role focused on economic development in a complex market. This executive is currently serving as the top executive of a municipal, county-wide, regional, or state economic development organization or a large chamber of commerce or as the "#2" or another senior-level executive within an organization, as noted above. An alternative background could be as a leader from a private sector business, nonprofit or a public sector organization within a growing regional area.

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The successful candidate will have the ability to quickly gain credibility with and the confidence of the Tacoma-Pierce County area's business, political, education, and community leadership. A successful track record of progressively responsible career growth and specific experience working with public and private sectors and other economic development-focused organizations is essential.

An undergraduate degree and an advanced degree in business, law or other discipline is preferred. However, any combination of advanced education, lived, and learned experience will be valued and considered. If the candidate's background includes service in an economic development-focused organization, then a demonstrated commitment to continued professional development through the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute, Certified Economic Developer designation, or other certification will be appreciated but optional.

Outstanding opportunity for an economic development, chamber, municipal leader, or private sector executive to lead a well-respected organization committed to the success of the business sector and overall economy and quality of life in the Tacoma-Pierce County area and the entire South Sound region. The next EDB CEO needs to be assertive in working with and partnering with area business executives, education leaders, and government officials in several decisions critical to the continuing growth and prosperity of the area. The new executive will work with an engaged and committed Board of Directors and professional colleagues on the staff, who are eager to move the EDB's objectives forward. The EDB is not content with the status quo and has high expectations for its new leader, as this executive will lead them into "the next chapter" for the Economic Development Board, the Tacoma-Pierce County business community, and the entire South Sound region's continued growth and development.

Contacts

If you know an outstanding economic development executive or other business leader who meets these requirements and would be interested in evaluating this dynamic opportunity, please email EDB@Waverly-Partners.com or contact WAVERLY PARTNERS, the executive search firm retained by the EDB for this search. A full Position Profile is also available upon request from WAVERLY PARTNERS.

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The Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County and WAVERLY PARTNERS value workforce diversity, inclusion, and equity. The EDB complies with all Federal, State, and local laws mandating Equal Employment Opportunities. All qualified applicants will be considered in accordance with applicable laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender, age, veteran status, disability, marital status, gender identity or sexual orientation.

WAVERLY PARTNERS

Executive Search Consultants

April 2024