

Tuscaloosa County Economic Development Authority Welcomes New Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tuscaloosa, Ala. – The Tuscaloosa County Economic Development Authority (TCEDA) has a new executive director. The TCEDA selected Justice Smyth to lead the organization after an extensive evaluation by the organization’s leadership.

Smyth brings more than a decade of economic development and higher education experience to the organization. Most recently, he served the University of Alabama in a dual role as interim director of the Alabama Mobility and Power Center (AMP) and director of strategic partnerships for the Alabama Transportation Institute (ATI).

“We are excited that Mr. Smyth will be joining the TCEDA as our new executive director,” said Norman Crow, chair of the TCEDA Board of Directors. “His economic development experience and established professional relationships throughout our state and region create a tremendous opportunity for our organization and community. We feel he is the best person to support our economic success and to maximize our potential, especially in the area of vehicle electrification and the mobility industry.”

Prior to serving with AMP and ATI, Smyth was director of corporate development for the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce in Alabama. He also served as project manager of corporate development while with the Chamber.

“This is a critical time in the history of our region. Tuscaloosa County is as well positioned as any community in the state to leverage existing assets to enable sustainable economic development success. With a world-class research university, internationally recognized existing industries, a talented and trainable workforce, dedicated civic leaders, and highly effective, pro-business elected officials at every level of government, all of the ingredients for success are in place,” said Smyth.

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The TCEDA is the economic development agency for all jurisdictions within Tuscaloosa County, Alabama and is a one stop source for accessing site location data including available sites and buildings, financing, employee training and incentives for manufacturing, technology and knowledge-based investments. Created in 1973, the Authority has played a pivotal role in the recruitment of manufacturing jobs to the West Alabama region.

“TCEDA leadership and staff have worked diligently during this transition to maintain our recruitment efforts and momentum,” said Crow. “We appreciate the work that everyone has contributed and we are looking forward to the addition of Mr. Smyth to our team as we set the course for success.”

“I am thankful to have a board of directors and supportive community partners who share a vision of what Tuscaloosa can be when we all work together for the good of the community. I am eager to get started and look forward to working with the leadership and staff to build upon the many successes of the past,” said Smyth.

Smyth is a graduate of the University of Alabama, earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in communication and information sciences. He is currently working to complete his doctorate in education at Alabama. Smyth is also a graduate of the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute. He has completed multiple economic development courses and is a member of the Economic Development Association of Alabama, having previously served on its Board of Directors and Executive Committee. He is married to Morgan Smyth, a native of Tuscaloosa, and they have two daughters.

A resident of Tuscaloosa, Smyth is active in his local community, serving on the boards of The Arc of Tuscaloosa County and Family Counseling Service of West Alabama. In addition, he serves on several boards affiliated with the University of Alabama.

Smyth’s hire has been approved by the TCEDA board and finance committee and he will begin his new role August 15.

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