

A SAMPLE OF OUR SUCCESS

PLEASE MEET SOME OF OUR PACE PLACEMENTS:



LOU ANN NISBETT

[Lou Ann Nisbett, CECD](#), joined the [Economic Development Alliance for Jefferson County](#) in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as a result of The PACE Group's executive search in 2006 for a new President and CEO. The Alliance has several organizations under one roof: Economic Development Alliance, Jefferson County Industrial Foundation, Pine Bluff Regional Chamber of Commerce, Jefferson Investors, Bioplex, Pine Bluff-Jefferson County Port Authority and Jefferson County Manufacturing Council. Nisbett was recruited from the Marshall Economic Development Corporation where she served as President. Alliance Board Chairman at the time, Chuck Morgan, described the search: "The Alliance selected

The PACE Group for our executive search, and we were very pleased with the search process. PACE presented four qualified candidates who were not actively looking for a new position. We selected Ms. Nisbett, and she is a great fit with our community. We are very pleased that an economic developer with Ms. Nisbett's experience and qualifications is joining The Alliance. We look forward to working with her and supporting the programs and plans she brings for Pine Bluff and Jefferson County."



LEE PETERSON

In 2005, [Lee Peterson](#) was announced as the [President of the Temple Economic Development Corporation \(TEDC\)](#) in Temple, Texas. Mr. Peterson was recruited by The PACE Group from the North Dakota Department of Commerce in Bismarck, North Dakota, where he served as Commissioner. At the completion of the search, [Steve Wright, Former Board Chairman/Member](#), summarized his experience with The PACE Group, "The

TEDC executive search committee interviewed several search firms and The PACE group was selected. We chose PACE because we felt the executives had done their homework to fully understand our community and our specific interests, prior to the interview. They were extremely well prepared. Accordingly, I knew they would also do their homework with prospective candidates. They provided first class service in every way and were very professional in their approach. The PACE Group exceeded my expectations. At the end of the search, I was very pleased with the thoroughness of the process and, more importantly, we hired the very best candidate available." The PACE Group is pleased that Peterson continues to thrive with this organization.



JEFF NOEL

The PACE Group was pleased to work with the **Cornerstone Alliance**, a Benton Harbor-based economic development group, to recruit [Jeff Noel](#) as President. Noel remained in that role for 11 years before leaving to join Whirlpool Corporation where he currently serves as the Corporate Vice President, Communications and Public Affairs. In 2011, Noel was appointed to the [Michigan Economic Development Corporation](#) Executive Committee and serves as Vice Chairman. Noel also served as commissioner of management and operations for the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development Department. Upon Noel's departure from Cornerstone Alliance, W.D. "Bill" Marohn, former President of Whirlpool Corporation and former Chairman for Cornerstone Alliance, said, "The executive search that The PACE Group did for our organization was outstanding. The selection of Jeff Noel was the perfect fit. During the past eleven years, Jeff has revolutionized Benton Harbor. We

would not hesitate to use The PACE Group again for future searches." The PACE Group was also retained to find Noel's replacement, Wendy Dant Chesser.



DAVID MYERS

The PACE Group proudly placed [David Myers, CEcD](#), as [Executive Director with the Ponca City Development Authority](#) (PCDA) in September 2003. Myers continues to serve the PCDA, an Accredited Economic Development Office, which is a stand alone, public trust dedicated to building the economy of Ponca City, Oklahoma. Myers has been in the economic development field for more than two decades. He has been a featured speaker at economic development and transportation conferences, workshops, and seminars throughout North America and Asia. Myers was recently appointed by Governor Mary Fallin to the Governor's Science and Technology Council, and he has also served as the President of the Oklahoma Economic Development Council, as well as serving as the past Chair of the Governor's Economic Development Marketing Team for the state of Oklahoma.



TONY KAAI

The PACE Group was proud to place [Tony Kaai](#) with the [Denison Development Alliance](#) in Denison, Texas. Kaai has served as [President of the Denison Development Alliance](#) and the Denison Industrial Foundation since June 1, 2000. Since his arrival, Kaai has assisted with the expansion and relocation of 24 companies that have created over 2,300 new jobs. In 2005, the Denison Development Alliance was honored as the State's best economic development program for cities with a population of 15,000-40,000 by the Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC). In 1994, Kaai is a Certified Economic Developer and was selected by the Oklahoma Economic Development Council as "Professional of the Year." The PACE Group has continued to consult with Kaai throughout the years and is thrilled with his success and economic growth.



DAVE ADKISSON

The PACE Group was pleased to have recruited [Dave Adkisson](#) as **President of the Birmingham, Alabama Chamber of Commerce** where he served for nearly six years before returning to his home state of Kentucky. In Alabama, Adkisson worked with business and political leaders in a 7-county metropolitan area to develop consensus around an agenda for the region's growth. He greatly strengthened the chamber's public policy division and its lobbying presence in both Washington, D.C., and the state's capital, Montgomery. Adkisson is currently the [President and CEO of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce](#), the largest business organization in the state. He served as the 2010 Chairman of the Board of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), and currently serves on the board of directors of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the nation's largest business association; he also chairs the U.S. Chamber's education policy committee. It is an honor for The PACE Group to have participated in Adkisson's outstanding career.



BLAKE WILSON

The PACE Group was honored to work with the Mississippi Economic Development Council to recruit and identify its current President. [Blake Wilson, President of the Mississippi Economic Council \(MEC\)](#), serves as only the third executive of the Mississippi State Chamber of Commerce in 63 years. The PACE Group recruited Wilson from the Florida Chamber of Commerce where he served as Executive Vice President, and where he developed one of the most sophisticated grassroots legislative action programs at the time. Under his direction, MEC has more than doubled membership, increased member participation more than six times, and increased the organization's revenue three and one-half times. Also, under Blake's leadership, MEC has worked with state leaders and other organizations on public policy issues designed to improve Mississippi's economic competitiveness. The PACE Group is proud of Wilson's continued success.



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