

ALBANY-DOUGHERTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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For Immediate Release

Clem: We must leverage our unique assets

Albany, Ga., January 16, 2009 – As the new president of the Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission, Ted Clem's priorities include assessing the organization and the business community to determine how the EDC can best serve existing industry, and examining current recruitment efforts.

"Albany-Dougherty County is a community with outstanding existing industry and phenomenal opportunities," said Clem. "My first focus is to determine where we are and how we can best leverage our community's unique assets to create jobs and grow the economy."

Clem, a Certified Economic Developer, comes to Albany by way of Panama City Beach, Fla. He was hired Jan. 5 to lead the EDC, a public-private agency. His first official day of work is today.

"We knew immediately that Ted was the right person to lead the new EDC," said the commission's board chair, Bobby McKinney. "His solid economic development experience and strategy have created jobs in other communities. We are confident that Ted will bring Albany-Dougherty County to the next level."

Clem began his economic development career serving in rural communities in south Alabama. In 1995, he was named vice president of business development for the Pensacola (Fla.) Area Chamber of Commerce. There, he was instrumental in the creation and attraction of more than 3,500 new jobs from business locations and expansions in the Pensacola region. In 1999, Clem joined the Bay County Economic Development Alliance in Panama City Beach, Fla., where he led the community's economic development initiatives to create more than 5,000 jobs. Clem is a past chairman of the Florida Economic Development Council and served on the executive board of Florida's Great Northwest, a regional economic development marketing organization.

A native of Georgiana, Ala., Clem graduated from Troy State University in 1988 with a degree in journalism. While at TSU, was a player on the 1984 and 1987 National Championship football teams. Clem later received a Master's degree in economic development from the University of Southern Mississippi. Clem and his wife, Stacey, have three children: Annalise, 13; Alaina, 10; and Andrew, 8.

The Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission is a proactive team dedicated to the recruitment, retention and expansion of industry for Albany-Dougherty County.

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