

## Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce

The Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce is the region's leading business association and shares a focus on job creation with the Chattanooga Chamber Foundation, which serves as the area's economic development authority. Incorporated as two separate but related entities, the two organizations operate under a shared vision of championing member businesses and implementing a comprehensive job creation strategy to promote regional economic growth. As a membership organization, the Chattanooga Chamber delivers value to more than 1,600 businesses and non-profits through networking opportunities, public policy advocacy, group buying power and dozens of other services. On the job creation side, the Chattanooga Chamber Foundation manages the largest business incubator in the state of Tennessee, works with existing industry and small companies to overcome barriers to their growth, implements award-winning programs to enhance the local workforce and recruits new investment by companies like Volkswagen, Alstom and Amazon.com.

Over the last fiscal year, the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce was responsible for directly assisting companies in announcing 1,928 new jobs and leading the communications that resulted in Chattanooga being named among the world's Top 7 Smartest Cities by the Intelligent Community Forum. The organization also launched the International Business Council and brought the Young Professionals Association of Chattanooga (YPAC) under the Chattanooga Chamber umbrella. More recently, the organization added two positions dedicated to expanding support for existing industry and member investors. These new positions are the latest demonstration of the organization's continuing commitment to meeting the needs of local companies.

### **Tom Edd Wilson, President & CEO**

Tom Edd Wilson joined the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce in 2001 following a distinguished 35-year career in the banking industry. During his decade-long tenure as head of the Chattanooga Chamber, Wilson has helped lay the foundation for major economic development projects involving Volkswagen, Alstom and Amazon.com, as well as several other major companies. In addition to those projects, Wilson has also led three campaigns that raised approximately \$28.5 million to sustain the Chamber's economic development programs and put an emphasis on initiatives in workforce development, public policy, existing business and business incubation. In the course of his service to the Chattanooga Chamber, Wilson has been named the recipient of the Kiwanis Club of Chattanooga's 2011 Distinguished Service Award, the Boy Scouts of America 2011 National Distinguished Eagle Scout Award and the 2006 Chattanooga Area Manager of the Year Award.

### **Lori Slatton, Executive Assistant**

Lori Slatton serves as the executive assistant to the president and CEO. Slatton has been with the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce for the past 17 years, 10 of which have been in the executive offices. Throughout her tenure, she has provided assistance to the organization's Leadership Chattanooga program, its 11 area councils, and its communications and accounting departments. Slatton is an active member of the Brainerd Hills Church of God, where she teaches a class and assists her husband of 15 years, Troy, who serves as church clerk. A member of EWI since 2009, Slatton currently holds the office of secretary.