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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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# FloridaWest Names Todd Thomson Senior Vice President of Industry and Investor Relations

PENSACOLA, Fla. FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance today announced that Todd Thomson, President and CEO of the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, will join the organization as Senior Vice President of Industry and Investor Relations in January 2027. Thomson will conclude his tenure with the Chamber by the end of 2026.



In his new role, Thomson will direct FloridaWest's existing industry program and report directly to Chris Platé, CEO. Initially, he will focus on developing a strong, visitation program with Escambia County employers to gain greater insights on the community's businesses, their concerns, expansion plans and workforce needs, and he will strengthen the organization's relationships with companies across the county. He will also seek to connect companies with local and state partners to address workforce, training, permitting and other issues, support expansion projects, and assist with grant applications and incentive proposals. He will also maintain FloridaWest's database of existing companies and report trends from company visits to the CEO.

"Supporting our existing industries is the most important role of any economic development agency. Todd has spent more than a decade working with Escambia County's employers, elected officials, and community leaders. He built the Chamber's advocacy program, and built relationships that provide strong standing in the business community." said Chris Platé, CEO of FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance. "I am very excited about adding Todd's capabilities to our team. His relationships and experience can be of great value as we continue to expand our existing industry program."

Thomson will also support FloridaWest's local manufacturers council, support industrial seminars, and help promote the value of Escambia County and Pensacola's commercial and manufacturing base through events around National Manufacturing Week. Todd will also be a conduit with the Pensacola State College and the University of West Florida on employer training needs. He will highlight successful local companies, connect them with one another, and assist the CEO in supporting FloridaWest's investors.

"I am proud of the accomplishments during my time with the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, spending more than a decade working alongside Escambia County's business community. I'm looking forward to this new opportunity with FloridaWest engaging and supporting the companies that call Escambia County home." said Thomson.

## A Decade with the Greater Pensacola Chamber

Thomson brings more than 30 years of experience in Florida government, politics, and business advocacy. He joined the Greater Pensacola Chamber, Florida's oldest chamber of commerce, in 2015 as Vice President of Public Affairs, where he developed the Chamber's advocacy program. During that time, the

Chamber introduced candidate questionnaires and forums for local races and began issuing regular legislative updates. Thomson was named interim President in February 2019 and President in April 2019.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Thomson led the Chamber's effort to keep local businesses informed through virtual events, interviews with elected officials and business leaders, and the From the President's Desk eblast, which began as a daily COVID-19 update and continues as a weekly summary for members. He served as the Chamber's representative to Escambia County Emergency Support Function 18 (ESF 18) during Hurricane Sally and Hurricane Isaias, connecting emergency management leadership with the business community.

Under Thomson's leadership, the Chamber took public positions on issues affecting local employers, including the development of Outlying Field-8, elimination of the state Business Rent Tax, and continued support for the Local Option Sales Tax. He established the Chamber's quarterly "State of" luncheon series on education, health care, the military, and the economy. The Chamber also produced the *Chamber Connection* radio show and the *Toddcast* podcast during his tenure.

Thomson holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Wofford College and a Master of Arts in Teaching-History from The Citadel.

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## About FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance

FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance is a results driven economic development organization focused on job creation, wage growth, capital investment, and long-term return on investment for taxpayers in Escambia County, the City of Pensacola and the Town of Century, Florida. FloridaWest aligns public and private resources to recruit, retain and expand quality employers and strengthen the community's competitive position.

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