

### The Opportunity

The Ascension Chamber of Commerce is seeking a talented leader who can build on its success, leveraging its full range of assets—human, reputational, and financial—in resolute pursuit of a better region for all.

The Ascension Chamber of Commerce has over 500 members and represents a wide range of businesses and professions. The Chamber is a non-profit organization not associated with any governmental agency and the President/CEO reports to the Board of Directors.

## The Priorities

The President/CEO is responsible for developing Chamber policies that enhance the Parish's economic environment, developing and cultivating strategic partnerships necessary for policy execution, and making day-to-day decisions driven by the chamber's fundamental policies.

A key priority for the President/CEO is to spearhead innovation and create a sustaining member-driven program of work which fosters community and economic development.

# The Relationships and Reputation

The President/CEO will build and maintain open relationships with elected officials and community leaders and will actively promote Ascension Parish as a desirable place to live, work, visit, and do business.

It is important for the President/CEO to live in Ascension Parish and be actively engaged in the fabric of the community. Participating in service clubs, attending local events, and being seen as an active and interested community leader is important to help build relationships and the reputation of the Chamber across the Parish.

# The Candidate

The ideal candidate possesses excellent communication and interpersonal skills and has experience in developing strategies that can improve the business climate and quality of life in Ascension Parish.





A Bachelor's degree in business administration, marketing, and/or journalism or life skills equivalent is required. Prior experience working with governmental entities and the political process is an asset and prior Chamber experience is preferred. The successful candidate will possess excellent organization and planning skills and has experience with conflict resolution.

The President/CEO has significant financial responsibilities including developing sources of non-dues revenues. In coordination with the Board Treasurer, the President/CEO constructs and proposes the annual budget to the Board.

In addition, the President/CEO is responsible for the implementation of the Chamber's strategic plan and communicates to the Board of Directors and necessary committees on plan execution and success. The President/CEO will develop, monitor and evaluate: systems to support membership retention and growth, identify and recruit volunteers to assist in shaping organizational directions, and attend and facilitate ribbon cuttings, ground breakings and grand openings.

The President/CEO will develop, monitor, and evaluate systems to support Leadership Ascension participation and growth and assist the Leadership Ascension Foundation in shaping organizational directions.

#### The Location

Ascension Parish is home to a diverse, vibrant, and growing business community. Over the past several years, Ascension Parish has consistently been the fastest growing

parish in the state of Louisiana. This steady population growth has created a wealth of demand for a variety of goods, service-based businesses, and industrial investments. Local and parish governments work proactively to develop many partnerships and initiatives with both the Ascension



Economic Development Corporation and the Ascension Chamber of Commerce. These efforts have created a positive and inviting environment necessary to attract new investments, as well as support established businesses within Ascension Parish.





Located approximately 60 miles from New Orleans and 30 miles from Baton Rouge, Ascension's physical location is also a contributing factor to its economic success.

# Ascension Parish Schools Ranked #2 Overall

Ascension Parish has an exceptional education system, strong infrastructure, easy access to markets, as well as a skilled and available workforce. Local and parish governments have been visionary in developing the appropriate infrastructures to support the needs of industries, existing businesses, and new businesses.



In addition, Ascension Parish is fully accessible to major highways (I-10), railway terminals and a deep-water port via the Mississippi River, which are all able to efficiently transport any product to its market.

Ascension Parish's business community continues to grow each day, offering residents and visitors of the Parish more and more services, all done with a smile. With a priority on education and quality of life, Ascension Parish is the ideal location to establish, develop and grow a business... and family.

Ascension Parish offers a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural lifestyles. While the Parish has seen significant population growth since 2000, stringent zoning and development codes have acted to preserve rural assets while accommodation suburban residential growth along with commercial and industrial development.

Ascension Parish has a rich cultural heritage that is celebrated in the local community theater, vibrant artists' association, beautiful plantation homes and several museums dedicated to preserving our unique history and traditions. Ascension Parish is also home to the Jambalaya Festival along with many other parish celebrations, including Music in the Park, the St. John Fair, Swamp Pop Music Festival, and the Sunshine Festival.





Ascension features many unique restaurants, antique shops, and wonderful attractions, such as the newly renovated Tanger Factory Outlet Center and Premier Lanes family entertainment center.

Ascension Parish is home to a long list of parks offering a great opportunity for the kids to play and a beautiful backdrop for outdoor exercise. The parish also offers a beautiful, state-of-the-art golf course for a great day on the greens and several public boat launches for fun on the water.



The greatest value of a Chamber Membership is derived from successful programs that solicit new business and improve the economic climate and quality of life in the Ascension Parish area.

Compensation is competitive and is commensurate with experience. Send resume and cover letter to <u>ascensionsearch@consultssa.com</u>

