

# Elkhart Economic Development Corporation leader named

South Bend Tribune Report | Posted: Thursday, September 10, 2015 6:00 am

ELKHART — Following a two-month nationwide search, the Economic Development Corporation of Elkhart County has its new leader.

Mark Dobson was selected to take the place of Dorinda Heiden-Guss as president and CEO of the EDC effective Oct. 14. Heiden-Guss stepped down in June after a little more than eight years in the role.

Dobson, 53, who lives in Elkhart, most recently worked as president and CEO of the Kosciusko Chamber of Commerce, which has grown to 600 members making it the second largest in Indiana's northeast region, according to a news release. Dodson was selected after the EDC launched a national search working with The Pace Group, an executive search firm specializing in economic development. Dobson was picked from three finalists.

“Mark has the experience, accomplishments, skill set, work ethic and vision for the EDC of Elkhart County to strengthen our current business base and help attract new business to the area,” said Jim Dague, EDC board chair, in a news release.

Dobson was named the Indiana Chamber Executive of the Year in 2014 for the implementation of the Chamber's strategic plan and was instrumental in raising funds needed to support Elevate Indiana in the North Central Region initiative. He was also appointed to the Indiana Judicial Technology Committee by Gov. Mike Pence.

In Elkhart County, Dobson will head up efforts to support the economic growth of the county by developing and implementing the EDC's aggressive economic development marketing program, according to the news release. The program is focused on business retention and recruitment, workforce marketing support, image enhancement and economic development marketing.

“I am very excited to be joining the EDC and to become actively involved in the communities of Elkhart County,” Dobson said in the release. “I look forward to working with the business and political leadership of the county and building upon the vision and mission that has already been laid in order to move the EDC of Elkhart County forward.”

Dobson, who is a graduate of Clay High School and Butler University, also previous served as president and CEO of the St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce and as a St. Joseph County commissioner.



Elkhart EDC leader named  
Mark Dobson