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Contact: Barbi Jones, President/CEO

**The Chamber Selects Alison Paladino as New President/CEO**

After an extensive search, the board of directors of The Chamber, Leading Business in Cabarrus proudly announces the hiring of Alison Paladino as president and CEO starting June 1, 2026.

Paladino joined The Chamber staff in 2017 as Events and Marketing Director and was promoted to Membership Engagement Director in 2022. During her tenure, she reshaped The Chamber's membership and sponsorship models to better reflect the needs of businesses of all sizes, ensuring value and relevance for all while aligning events and programming to meet strategic plan goals.

In addition to her Chamber experience, Paladino worked in digital marketing, advertising and public relations in Nebraska and North Carolina. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Communication with a Minor in Public Relations from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Paladino will complete her four-year Institute of Organization Management accreditation through the US Chamber of Commerce in June, the highest credential for chamber of commerce executives.

As a small business owner herself, Paladino understands the challenges and opportunities small businesses face. She and her husband, Nick, own Luck Factory Games, a board game café, in Concord.

"The board couldn't be happier to announce Alison's hiring," said Joe Crapster, Government and Community Relations Manager, Duke Energy, and 2026 board chair. "We had a large pool of qualified applicants, but Alison's knowledge and love of Cabarrus County combined with great business acumen and chamber experience made her the perfect candidate to lead our chamber into the future."

“Cabarrus County is where my heart is, and I am stepping into this role ready to hit the ground running,” said Paladino. “I am fully committed to being a high-energy advocate for our business community—staying ahead of the curve and listening intently so the Chamber can be a proactive partner exactly where our members need us most.”

Barbi Jones, current president/CEO, will retire on May 31, 2026. “I am thrilled for Alison to have this great opportunity, and for our members to have her as their leader,” said Jones. “She has worked incredibly hard during her time at The Chamber, increasing membership, strengthening relationships and enhancing member benefits and engagement. She has a solid vision for the future of The Chamber making her the perfect person for the job.”

The Chamber would like to thank Tracie Hampton, Principal, Tracie P. Hampton Consulting, for leading the executive search.