



## SUMMARY

# President & Chief Executive Officer Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County

State College, Pennsylvania

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**The Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County** ("CBICC") is a non-profit membership organization with the mission of promoting the well-being and growth of business and industry while striving to maintain Centre County's well-known high quality of life. With 700+ members, CBICC is the largest and most comprehensive Chamber in the County and one of the most influential organizations in Pennsylvania. The Chamber is widely recognized as the premiere resource for anyone interested in living, working or doing business in the region. With The Pennsylvania State University located in State College, CBICC benefits from access to Penn State's extensive resources, resulting in a flourishing high-tech business sector, vibrant research, and thought leadership that fosters myriad businesses opportunities along with a varied and diversified job market. Today, the CBICC staffs and manages three corporate entities under its umbrella:

- Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County ("CBICC") is a 501c(6) and the lead organization which provides a variety of programs and services for Chamber members.
- Centre County Industrial Development Corporation ("CCIDC") is a 501c(4) and promotes economic development throughout the County, with the ultimate goal of attracting and retaining family-sustaining jobs.
- Chamber Foundation of Centre County is a 501c(3) charitable organization focused on economic development and education initiatives.

Current President & CEO Vern Squier has served CBICC for almost 10 years and has announced his intention to retire from his position once a successor is appointed. The Board of Directors has embarked on a national search to recruit a new President & CEO who will guide the CBICC and its prominent business and economic development leadership activities in Centre County. Website: [www.cbicc.org](http://www.cbicc.org)

**Centre County** is located at the geographic heart of Pennsylvania and is widely recognized as an exciting and vibrant place to live and work. The County has a population of 162,385 with significant population growth each of the last three decades, allowing for consistent, yet manageable growth. The largest community is State College (population 40,000+) the home of Penn State University, with over 44,000 students and ranked among the five largest research universities in the nation (2019-2020 research dollars of over \$1 billion). Centre County offers an outstanding quality of life with communities that are vibrant centers of commerce and culture surrounded by the breathtaking Allegheny Mountains and broad valley vistas (the region is affectionately known as "Happy Valley"). Because it enjoys a highly diversified economy, the County's unemployment rate is consistently one of the lowest in Pennsylvania and the area has earned the reputation as an incubator of high-tech companies, thanks in large part to continuous research and development activities generated by Penn State.

**President & Chief Executive Officer** ("CEO") of CBICC reports to the Chair of the 22-member Board of Directors and is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Board. The CEO manages a three-person staff with intern assistance (plus independent contractors for IT and Accounting) across CBICC's three organizations. CEO is the chief paid administrative executive of CBICC and is responsible for the overall management of the Chamber and subsidiary entities including the implementation, interpretation, and achievement of short- and long-term objectives. The CEO will direct all CBICC activities including administrative and human resource management, economic development, ~\$700+K budget and fiscal accountabilities and organizational growth. Further, the CEO serves as spokesperson for CBICC and provides leadership and direction that creates a high level of enthusiasm, action, and momentum among the membership, CBICC staff, and the Centre County business community.



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***The ideal candidate*** must have a proven track record of success and may come from a variety of backgrounds such as: serving as the top executive within a progressive and comparably-sized Chamber of Commerce, or related significant business association, or economic development-focused organization; experience as a "#2" or other senior-level executive at a larger like enterprise as noted above; or an executive from a complex private or public sector entity. Significant Board interaction and experience leading large numbers of volunteers is strongly desired. Bachelor's degree required, advanced degree desirable. If the candidate's professional experience includes chamber of economic development industry background, then a graduate of the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Organization Management, Certified Chamber Executive designation or Certified Economic Developer designation is desirable.

***Outstanding opportunity*** for an economic development, chamber of commerce, association or perhaps private sector executive to lead and grow a successful chamber organization in a dynamic community. The new CEO will inherit a dedicated Chamber staff who bring significant experience and enthusiasm to their roles. CBICC is on solid financial ground and is led by a committed and influential volunteer Board of Directors. CBICC has a long-standing reputation as "the voice of business" in Centre County and has historically enjoyed a reputation as a strong business advocate across region.

**Contact:** If you would like to discuss this position, or are aware of an outstanding economic development, chamber, association or business executive who meets these requirements, please contact WAVERLY PARTNERS, the executive search firm retained by the CBICC Board on this search and the preferred provider of executive search services of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

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