

**For Immediate Release**

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Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 18 – The Economic Development Partnership of Alabama today announced two new appointments to its Board of Directors.

The appointments of Billy L. Harbert Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of BL Harbert International, LLC, and J. Gregory Henderson, president and CEO of Southeast Alabama Gas District, were made at EDPA’s Board of Directors meeting held in Birmingham.

“I am delighted to welcome these corporate leaders to our board,” said Bill Taylor, EDPA president. “I’m confident that their considerable expertise in business and economic development will provide valuable insight and guidance to our organization. We are extremely fortunate to have them join us, and we are sure to benefit from their collective years of experience.”

Harbert, who earned his bachelor’s degree in building science from Auburn University and a master’s degree from Emory University’s Goizueta Business School, grew up in the construction industry as his father, Bill Harbert, helped pioneer the industry in Birmingham and abroad. He was named president of Bill Harbert International Construction in 1996, and he began construction operations in 2000 of his own company, BL Harbert International, a privately-owned construction company with U.S. and international operations, providing preconstruction, construction, design-build and construction management services.

“EDPA’s success in industrial recruitment and industry retention is evident throughout the state,” Harbert said. “EDPA has been vital to the state’s economic development, as more jobs are announced weekly. It is an honor to be appointed to the Board of Directors with so many trusted and talented Alabama business leaders.”

Henderson, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with an accounting major from Auburn University, was appointed president and CEO in 2006 of the Andalusia-based Southeast Alabama Gas District, which serves 30,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in 34 communities throughout Southeast Alabama.

"It is my honor to serve as a representative of SEAGD on the EDPA Board of Directors in recognition for our company's efforts in economic development," Henderson said. "EDPA has long been a catalyst for economic growth for the state of Alabama, and I believe will become even more critical to the state Department of Commerce in these times of smaller government and budgets."

Other EDPA Board of Directors members are:

- Board Chairman Charles D. McCrary, president and CEO, Alabama Power Co.
- William W. Brooke, managing partner, Harbert Management Corp.
- David J. Cooper, president, Cooper/T. Smith Stevedoring Co.
- G. Mack Dove, chairman and CEO, AAA Cooper Transportation
- Garry Neil Drummond, chairman and CEO, Drummond Co., Inc.
- Jay Gogue, president Auburn University
- M. James Gorrie, chairman and CEO, Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC
- O.B. Grayson Hall Jr., president and CEO, Regions Financial Corp.
- James M. Hansen, regional president, PNC Bank
- Mark Imig, senior vice president, Wells Fargo & Co.
- Donald M. James, chairman and CEO, Vulcan Materials Co.
- John D. Johns, chairman, president and CEO, Protective Life Corp.
- Fred McCallum, president, AT&T Alabama
- James T. McManus, CEO and president, Energen Corp.
- Harris V. Morrissette, president, China Doll/Dixie Lily
- James H. Sanford, chairman of the board, HOME Place Farms, Inc.
- Gary L. Smith, president and CEO, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative
- R. Lee Smith, Jr., East Region executive, BBVA Compass
- Thomas R. Stanton, chairman of the board and CEO, ADTRAN, Inc.
- Michael D. Thompson, president and CEO, Thompson Tractor Co., Inc.
- Jim Wilson III, chairman and CEO, Jim Wilson and Associates, Inc.
- Robert E. Witt, chancellor, University of Alabama System
- Neill S. Wright, president and CEO, First Tuskegee Bank

***About the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama:*** Now in its 22nd year, the non-profit Partnership represents the private sector's contribution to economic development in Alabama. Fully funded by more than 70 leading companies invested in the state's long-term economic success, EDPA provides leadership and services that recruit new businesses to the state, retain existing businesses and renew Alabama's economy by encouraging innovation both within existing industries and through the commercialization of new technologies. [www.edpa.org](http://www.edpa.org).

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