

■ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Charleston expert named county director

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Heyward Horton will move across the Edisto River to become Colleton County's Economic Development Director.

Colleton County Administrator Kevin Griffin announced Thursday that Horton has been selected to succeed current Economic Director Peter Arnoti when Arnoti retires at the end of the month. Horton's first day on the job will be Jan. 17, giving him a few days to work with Arnoti before he leaves office.

Horton comes to Colleton County from the Charleston Regional Development Alliance where he has been serving in the Alliance's Global Business Attraction post.

Griffin said Horton has served as business development and senior project manager with the Charleston Regional Development Alliance since it was formed in 1995 and has over 24 years experience in economic development with an extensive background in project management, planning and a depth of knowledge in key industry sectors of aerospace, automotive and distribution.

Horton, Griffin added, "was integrally involved in drawing a number of large investments to the Charleston areas, including most recently Google and Boeing."

Griffin said, "I am very excited about Heyward. Heyward has a great knowledge of the emerging opportunities for Colleton County regarding both the Charleston and

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Experience will help new director succeed

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Savannah ports and he has been intimately involved with the pending arrival of Boeing. This, combined with an exemplary set of marketing skills and an impressive zeal for the Lowcountry, makes him a great fit to take our economic development efforts to the next level," Griffin said.

Arnoti added, "from the pool of very strong candidates, I am extremely pleased with Colleton County's selection of Heyward Horton as its new economic development director.

"Heyward's years of experience, his understanding of the economic dynamics of the Lowcountry and his excellent professional reputation will allow Colleton County to take its economic development initiatives from the foundation building level to a prominent regional economic development player," Arnoti offered.

"With strong economic development assets in place (a shovel ready site at I-95, a 100,000 square foot spec building, an airport ready for aviation-related investments and a new workforce training center), coupled with strong incentive policies and lower operating costs, the stage is set to take Colleton County to its next level," Arnoti said. "Heyward is the person who can and will do that."

Tuesday, Horton visited the Colleton County Economic Development office to be introduced to the chairmen of the county's Economic Alliance and the Colleton County Resource and Development Board.

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Mark Walling, vice-president of engineering and operations for Coastal Electric Cooperative and chairman of the Resource and Development Board, said "I'm very pleased with the selection, he is well suited for the post." Horton's experience in dealing with aviation-related industries and businesses involved with the Charleston and Savannah ports, Walling said, has allowed Horton to establish contacts he will be able to use in the search for new Colleton County employers.

Horton has assisted more than 75 companies with their decisions to locate in the Charleston region since the formation of the Charleston Regional Development Alliance. Capital investment for those companies is in excess of \$3 billion and announced employment is more than 12,000.

Major announcements during his tenure with the Charleston Regional Development Alliance have included: Nucor Steel-\$500 million; Vought & Global Aeronautica-\$560 million; Nucor expansion-\$150 million; Google-\$650 million; Mikasa-\$60 million; DuPont/Kevlar-\$500 million; Giant Cement-\$120 million; and Boeing-\$750 million.

Horton, a native of Belton, S.C. and has lived in the Charleston area since 1978 when he began attending the College of Charleston and is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma-Norman. He and his wife Lee live on James Island with their 17-year-old son Heyward Jr.