



PRESS RELEASE

August 25, 2016
For Immediate Release
Weslaco EDC

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Richard Talbert
President
Attorney
Weslaco

Joe Olivarez
Vice President
LNR Properties
Weslaco

Steven Charlton
Treasurer
CPA
Weslaco

Cynthia Cabaza
Secretary
Shepard, Walton, King, Ins.
Weslaco

Rudy Cisneros
Owner, Cisneros Jewellery
Weslaco

Marty Masso
Owner, Boots & Jeans
Weslaco

Diana Fuentes - Aguilar
Attorney
Weslaco

The Board of Directors for the Weslaco Economic Development Corporation proudly announce the naming of Marie McDermott as Executive Director of the Weslaco EDC.

Since April, 2016, McDermott has been serving as Interim EDC Executive Director and after a unanimous vote by the EDC seven member board earlier last week, she has full and complete autonomy to execute responsibilities of performing any and all duties of the office of the executive director.

McDermott's previous experience is like a "Who's Who" in Economic Development in the state of Texas. From 2007 to 2015, McDermott served in the capacity of the recruitment of firms on a global scale while serving as Vice President of Business Development for the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region.

Prior to her Houston experience, McDermott served two RGV neighboring communities as President and C.E.O. for the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce from 2005 to 2007 and President and C.E.O. of the Brownsville Economic Development Council from 1992 to 2001.

McDermott has earned the distinction of being named a Certified Economic Developer by the International Development Council and in 2004, served as chairwoman of the Texas Economic Development Council with 900 members strong.

"Economic development has been my love and my life," says McDermott. "And while I have enjoyed a healthy 30 year career and many valuable experiences, Weslaco is exactly where I want to be."

"During her short term as interim executive director," says Richard Talbert, President of the EDC Board of Directors, "I saw how she generated excitement and a genuine interest in the changes coming to Weslaco."

"Weslaco has often been referred to as the city on the grow," says McDermott, "but I also see a city that has long since realized it's potential and now capitalizing on what it can offer new business, growing industries and more importantly, a quality of life for the people that have already experienced its humble charm."

McDermott intends to grow developing and established logistics, supply companies and higher educational institutions and to create jobs that bring higher wages to residents from Weslaco. "Her proactive attitude was embraced by the board," says Vice President, Joe Olivarez, "and while the selection process was rigorous, we valued her understanding of building long lasting and strong relationships with the people of Weslaco along with her ties and connections state wide."

The Weslaco EDC is committed to improving the quality of life, bringing jobs and retaining businesses that have already made Weslaco their home. The office is adjacent to City Hall in Weslaco at 275 S. Kansas Ave and has built a solid working relationship with the City Manager's Office and Weslaco Chamber of Commerce.

The Weslaco EDC office is funded through a half cent sales tax and applies its revenue toward developing jobs and funding improvement opportunities for existing businesses.

McDermott's concluding thoughts are, "I am honored to have been given this opportunity and am committed to producing results with the formidable and quality staff assigned to my position."