

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PASCO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC. HIRES NEW PRESIDENT & CEO

**LUTZ, FLORIDA--<NOVEMBER 20, 2009>**--Today, the Pasco Economic Development Council, Inc. is pleased to announce the employment of John L. Hagen, CEcD, as its new President & CEO. Hagen will transition into his role during December and will begin leading the PEDC full-time January 2, 2010.

“We are very excited to bring John Hagen to this position, which we believe is critical to the future of Pasco County, our competitiveness and our future quality growth,” said Trey Starkey, a member of the Search Committee.

“Pasco County is squarely in the path of progress,” Hagen noted, in accepting the PEDC offer of employment. “There are only a handful of communities in the United States that have this kind of growth potential. Frankly, it will take a lot of hard work on everyone’s part, but I couldn’t pass up the chance to make a difference here.”

Hagen is a 30-year veteran of the economic development profession. Since 2004, he has been the Economic Development Director for the City of Surprise, Arizona. Surprise is one of the fastest growing cities in the United States with a population of more than 110,000. Prior to that he was the Executive Director of the Anderson Corporation for Economic Development in Madison County, Indiana, a leadership position he held from 1986 to 2004. During his tenure in these two lead roles, Hagen’s list of accomplishments includes:

- Facilitating the creation of five new business parks and six major retail centers and the organization of a small business program that created over 100 new businesses in Surprise.
- Assisting over 100 company relocations and expansions, helping to develop office and industrial buildings, and developing a 230-acre business park, including its marketing, sales and financing in Anderson, Indiana.

“We know Pasco County is very important relative to the rest of Tampa,” said Wilton Simpson, PEDC Board Chair and also a member of the Search Committee. “As we look out over the next ten to twenty years, we believe John Hagen has the experience, leadership and professional skills to lead the PEDC at the heightened proactive levels of sales, marketing and policy that we have crafted in our new strategic plan.”

Hagen brings leadership experience in collaborative regional structures like the Tampa Bay Partnership:

- In Arizona, he was an active partner in the Greater Phoenix Economic Council.
- Previously, in the Indianapolis region, he was a founding member of the Indy Partnership. Both these regional organizations have distinct similarities to the Tampa Bay Partnership.

The PEDC's unanimous decision to hire John Hagen follows a lengthy executive search process that involved over 70 local and national applicants, multiple interviews, reference checks and an impressive list of finalists. KMK Consulting was instrumental in helping the Search Committee during the course of this process.

*The PEDC is an organization promoting county wide economic development. It is a strong partnership relying on both corporate investment and public funding – guided by a pro-business Board of Directors and Policy Council. It was created in 1987 by a group of dedicated business and community leaders focusing on the economic vitality of the county*

For additional information:

Wilton Simpson  
Board Chair  
Pasco Economic Development Council  
(813)355-7660

Stew Gibbons  
Immediate Past Chair  
Pasco Economic Development Council  
(813)235-6767