



News Release
For Immediate Release

Michael Trotter Named Interim President & CEO
Gretchen Carson Named Business Expansion & Retention Specialist
Union County Partnership for Progress

Monroe, NC – December 28, 2011 -- Union County Partnership for Progress Chairman Ken Harris announced today that Michael Trotter has been named Interim President and CEO of the Union County Partnership for Progress, effective December 16, 2011. Mr. Trotter will replace Mr. Maurice Ewing, previously President and CEO, who will be retiring effective February 15, 2012.

"For the past three years, Michael Trotter has done an outstanding job for the Union County Partnership for Progress and is uniquely qualified for this new opportunity" said Board Chair **Ken Harris**. "Michael has worked hard to build strong relationships within the public and private sectors of Union County which will benefit the Union County Partnership for Progress in the months ahead."

Trotter is a former manager with Duke Energy Corporation, having served twenty-two years in various managerial and professional positions, including large industrial account relationship management. Michael also served in a managerial role within Duke Energy's economic development efforts in North Carolina in the Charlotte Region, the Triad and the Research Triangle. Trotter received his Bachelor of Science degree from Clemson University.

Harris also announced the appointment of Gretchen Carson as Business Retention and Expansion Specialist for the Union County Partnership for Progress. "Gretchen Carson has done a great job providing significant administrative and operational support for the Union County Partnership for Progress and this promotion is well-deserved" said Board Chair **Ken Harris**.

Before joining the Union County Partnership for Progress, Carson was the Executive Director with the French American Chamber of Commerce in Charlotte, NC. Mrs. Carson received degrees from Indiana University as well as the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

"The Union County Partnership for Progress is very fortunate to have someone with the skills of Mrs. Carson. We have a great staff!" said Mr. Harris.

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