

Forward High Point Names Executive Director

Forward High Point is pleased to announce that Ray Gibbs has been hired as the newly reformed organizations first Executive Director.

Gibbs has served 20 years as the Executive Director or President of downtown development non-profits in North Carolina and Virginia including stints in Smithfield, Martinsville and Greensboro. During his tenure in Greensboro where he served 8-years as President/CEO of Downtown Greensboro Inc. the downtown saw over \$250 million in new investment, with an additional \$80 million worth of projects under construction and \$200 million in active planning stages; the completion of 250+ new residential units with several hundred new units under construction or planned and a net gain of 28 restaurants and night clubs in the downtown area. Gibbs also directed the preparation and completion of a comprehensive Downtown Master Plan, assisted with the preliminary master plans for a four mile greenway loop around downtown and provided assistance with the planning and completion of other major downtown projects including a 5,700-seat minor league baseball stadium.

Gibbs has a degree from North Carolina State University in Landscape architecture and is licensed to practice in 4 states. He also holds a North Carolina Real Estate Broker's License and spent several years in the private sector building Multi-family Housing.

Doyle Early, Chairman of the Board of directors said “

The Executive Director of Forward High Point, is responsible for the planning, development, promotion and execution of the redevelopment, restoration, and economic development of Downtown High Point. A total of 12 million square feet in the downtown is dedicated to the Furniture Market. Forward High Point will redevelop/create a Downtown north of the Furniture Market. This position requires experience and abilities described below. The Executive Director must be able to perform the duties below with or without reasonable accommodation.

Forward High Point is a newly formed corporation(s) whose mission is “to transform downtown High Point into an extraordinary and vibrant destination to live, work, study and play”. The new 21 member Board of Directors is comprised of key leaders from the public and private sector.

High Point, North Carolina is a globally-connected community, known as North Carolina's International City™ and Home Furnishings Capital of the World™. Twice each year, the city hosts the High Point Market, the world's largest home furnishings trade show. High Point is located alongside Greensboro and Winston-Salem in the Piedmont Triad region of North Carolina, the nation's 37th largest metro area with a population exceeding 1.6 million. High Point's population in 2015 was estimated to be more than 110,600 residents. High Point is home to High Point University whose student population is quickly approaching 5,000. The University has invested \$1.7 billion on the campus which is in close proximity to Downtown High Point. High Point is a “gig city” having Internet connections that are amazingly fast, up to 1 gigabit per second. The City is accessible via five Interstate highways, four of which are in High Point – I-40, I-73, I-74, and I-85. Piedmont Triad International Airport (GSO), which is located less than a mile from the High Point city limits [two other airports are within a 75-minute drive – Charlotte Douglas

International Airport (CLT) and Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU).

For more information call Doyle Early, Chairman – Forward High Point at 336-819-6046.

