



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tucson Metropolitan Chamber Names New CEO and COO

Chamber Board Selects CEO With Chamber Experience and COO With Local Connections

TUCSON, Ariz. (April 6, 2011) – The Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (TMCC) board of directors unanimously voted Monday to offer the chamber's chief executive officer and chief operating officer jobs to two top executives selected from a pool of more than 200 applicants.

Mike Varney, an executive from Las Vegas with extensive chamber, business and marketing experience, has accepted the position of TMCC's CEO. Bill Holmes, a local executive with banking, government relations and non-profit experience, will serve as COO. Varney and Holmes will combine their strengths and innovative ideas to enhance the TMCC's benefits and services and its role as a leading business organization.

Varney is currently the president and CEO of the North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and serves on the board of the Western Association of Chamber Executives with more than 11 years of chamber experience. Prior executive positions include vice president of marketing at the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and president of Nevada Corporate Headquarters, Inc. (Download photo [here](#)).

Holmes is currently the vice president and community relations manager at Wells Fargo Bank where he also served as an assistant vice president and branch manager. During his 35 years in Tucson, Holmes also made valuable community connections through his work with the Pima County Superintendent of Schools, JES & Co., and Source One Business Systems, Inc. Holmes will begin work full-time at the Chamber on April 18, 2011. (Download photo [here](#)).

Wendell Long, CEO of Sol Casinos and the newly appointed chairman of the TMCC board of directors, said, "The Tucson Metropolitan Chamber board of directors is very pleased with its decision to hire these two dynamic leaders that together bring extensive chamber leadership experience, business management skills, and knowledge of the greater Tucson community. We believe these executives will draw from their track records of success to implement innovative programs and position the Chamber for long-term success."

To arrange interviews, please contact Kimberly Schmitz at kschmitz@calibergroup.com or 520-247-5778.

About The Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce is to lead all public and private interests in the Tucson metropolitan area to develop a climate in which businesses can create jobs and operate at a profit. The Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce is a membership-based business advocacy and networking organization that represents more than 1,700 businesses, which employ more than 125,000 employees in the greater Tucson area. Small business makes up approximately 90 percent of Chamber membership, which mirrors the overall Tucson area business community.

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