

GMMDC Appoints Chris Locke as Executive Director

The Greater Memphis Medical Device Council recently announced the hiring of Chris Locke as its new Executive Director. Locke is a 27 year veteran of the health care industry serving in various hospital executive leadership roles over his tenured career. He most recently served as the Chief Executive Officer of Saint Francis Hospital - Bartlett in Memphis, part of the Tenet Health System. Locke also served as Chief Operating Officer of Atlanta Medical Center and Spalding Regional Medical Center during his 16 year career with Tenet and was a three time winner of Tenet's distinguished Circle of Excellence award for outstanding quality, financial and operational performance. Prior to joining Tenet, Locke worked for Universal Health Services serving as the Chief Operating Officer at Wellington Regional Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Florida and Vice President of Professional Services at Manatee Memorial Hospital in Bradenton, Florida.

Locke holds a Master's Degree in health administration from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri and a BA in psychology from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas.

"The GMMDC Board is excited to announce the hiring of Chris as our new executive director," says board member Patrick Fisher, who is vice president and general manager Foot and Ankle at Stryker. "He's an experienced leader who brings an excellent track record of success as well as an entrepreneurial mindset to our team."

GMMDC Board Chairman and Elos Medtech Executive, Jodie Gilmore, adds: "Chris's skills and experience will provide an immediate executive presence to advance the strategic plans and agenda of the GMMDC. With strong ties to the local community, he will be key in continuing to advocate for our industry at the local, state and even national levels."

Vice-Chairman Mike Crook, COO at Grace Medical, also adds: "Chris is a fantastic addition to the GMMDC. He's perfectly suited for the position, and our board is confident he will lead our efforts moving forward."

The Greater Memphis Medical Device Council is an industry group that advocates for progressive changes to fuel sustained economic growth and support the development of a comprehensive, world-class workforce serving the Memphis area biomedical industry.

Established in 2014 by senior leadership from local medical device manufacturers and suppliers, the GMMDC also fosters collaboration and innovation among medical device companies, educational institutions, and research organizations in the area.

Locke's role will include bringing together key stakeholders from the medical device industry, advocating for its growth and attracting new investments and talent to the region. The medical device cluster in Shelby County is one of the largest in the United States.

A recent economic impact analysis by Younger Associates revealed that the local medical device industry contributes more than \$4 billion annually to the local economy and supports almost 8,000 direct jobs plus 11,000 indirect jobs in Shelby County. Contact Chris Locke at (901) 380-2710 or email clocke@gmmdc.org, for more information about the GMMDC and becoming a member.