

MARK A. DOBSON, IOM, AE

President & CEO

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Mark Dobson brings a wealth of experience in both the public and private sectors to the Economic Development Corporation of Elkhart County. His focus at the EDC is to attract new businesses to the region. He works with site selectors and corporate asset managers to keep Elkhart County top-of-mind. Because an adequately trained workforce is one of the keys to success of any economic development strategy, he has established the Business Advisory Panel for Education to ensure education and commerce are collaborating to produce the best trained workforce in the region. Additionally, he serves the Elevate Indiana Advisory Committee that is developing an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem for Northern Indiana.

Previous to his engagement with the EDC of Elkhart County, Dobson was the president & CEO of the Kosciusko Chamber of Commerce. His focus on ensuring the Kosciusko Chamber was the public policy leader for the region. He also oversaw the absorption of Warsaw Community Development into the chamber. And he was the president of the Northern Indiana Coalition of Chambers. Those experiences – and the execution of the Kosciusko Chamber Strategic Plan – earned Dobson the designation of 2014 Chamber Executive of the Year by the Indiana Chamber Executive Association.

Dobson also served the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County, where he established a Community Leader Forum and rebuilt the public policy division. Prior to his service to that chamber, Dobson served as the president of the St. Joseph County Commissioners. His two terms of service to the citizens of St. Joseph County were distinguished by his fiery advocacy for his constituents and a vision of reducing government influence on the people. His concept of Metro-Gov is still discussed when looking at ways to reduce the cost of delivery of government services.

His time in the private sector included a distinguished career in the oil industry and real estate. Dobson served B&R Oil Co., Inc. as its vice president of operations. B&R Oil was once the highest volume gasoline distributor in the nation for Phillips 66. The company also distributed Mobil Oil and Union 76 fuels in Indiana and Michigan. As Dobson turned to real estate, he earned International Diamond Elite status with Coldwell Banker for sales and marketing excellence.

Dobson holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Butler University with concentrations in marketing and management. He completed his Institute for Organization Management training from the U.S. Chamber Foundation in 2012. A believer in life-long learning, he also has been designated as a Master Petroleum Marketer by the Phillips 66 Marketing & Management Institute.

Dobson is an avid golfer and winter sport enthusiast. However, he is most proud of his family. He has been married to Tina for over 30 years. His son Mitchell is a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force. And his daughter Shelby is an amazing teacher in Brownsburg, Indiana.