

Speaker Bio | Ted Townsend

A native Memphian with years of experience in economic development and government relations, Townsend joined the Chamber as Chief Economic Development Officer in 2020. During his tenure, Townsend has leveraged data to build a compelling narrative leading the region to historic wins and its best year ever for economic development in 2021. One of those record-breaking wins was the single largest private investment in Tennessee history: Ford and SK Innovation's \$5.6 billion, 6,000-job BlueOval City electric vehicle and battery manufacturing campus. Prior to joining the Chamber, Townsend served as the first-ever Chief Economic Development and Government Relations Officer at the University of Memphis

(UofM). He has held various roles at the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, including Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer. Before entering public service, he was co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of Memphis-based arGentis Pharmaceuticals Inc. Townsend holds a degree in organizational leadership from UofM and is a graduate of Leadership Tennessee and the Leadership Memphis Executive Program.