

For Immediate Release

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**LESESNE JOINS UPSTATE FOREVER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MAXSON NAMED DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Upstate Forever is pleased to announce that Wofford College President Emeritus Dr. Joab (Joe) Lesesne, Jr. has joined its Board of Directors and that David Maxson, the former Executive Director of ETV Endowment of South Carolina, Inc. has joined the staff as Director of Development.

Lesesne graduated from Erskine College and earned his master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. He served as president of Wofford for 28 years—from 1972 until 2000. During his tenure, the campus doubled in size, the number of majors increased from 15 to 23, and the college's endowment grew from \$3.5 million to over \$100 million.

Lesesne has served as chairman of the boards of the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce, the Spartanburg County Foundation, and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. His many honors include the Neville Holcombe Distinguished Citizenship Award, the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce (1992); the Daniel Morgan Award, United Way of the Piedmont (1997); the Sargeant William Jasper Award, South Carolina State Chamber of Commerce (1995); and the Order of the Palmetto (2000). He is also a brigadier general and brigade commander of the South Carolina Army National Guard, now holding the rank of major general, retired.

Lesesne said, "I have profound admiration and respect for the work that Upstate Forever is doing, and I am excited about becoming actively involved with the organization. I completely agree with Upstate Forever's position that we need to be proactive to ensure that our wonderful region does not become another Atlanta."

David Maxson, the Associate Director of the ETV Endowment of South Carolina, Inc. for five years and as its Executive Director since July, 2003, has joined Upstate Forever as Director of Development. A graduate of Princeton University, Maxson has worked for 30 years in the development field, holding positions at Harvard University, Oberlin College, the Franklin Institute, and the National Alliance for Autism Research, among others.

Maxson said, "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me to work in the field of conservation and to play a role in shaping the growth of our Upstate

communities. I look forward to helping Upstate Forever remain financially sound so it can continue and expand its good work.”

Brad Wyche, Executive Director of Upstate Forever, said, “What a one-two punch this is for us—adding Joe Lesesne to our Board and hiring David Maxson as our first Director of Development. We are deeply honored to have these two stellar individuals sharing their time and talents with us.”

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