

José Ignacio González



José Ignacio González, born in Louisville, KY and raised in Barranquilla, Colombia, is the Chief Executive Officer and Founding Partner of Hemisphere Trade Services, a firm dedicated to providing infrastructure and trade development throughout the Americas. He has just concluded three years serving as the Executive Director of Hemisphere, Inc., a non-profit, public-private partnership formed by the State of Georgia, City of Atlanta, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the Atlanta Convention & Visitor's Bureau and the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Jose Ignacio was appointed

in August 2003 by Governor Perdue to his position with Hemisphere Inc., in order to lead the campaign to attract the permanent Secretariat of the Free Trade Area of the Americas to the State of Georgia. He is the founding partner of PanAmerican Logistics, LLC, a third party total logistics provider for the perishables industry, through its joint venture with Perishables Group International JV, LLC, which operates the Perishables Complex at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Mr. González is Past Chairman of Summit Bank Corporation and Past Vice Chairman of The Summit National Bank. He served as Chairman from April 2002 through March 2004. Mr. González was a director of the Summit Bank Corporation from 1998 through 2006, where he was Chairman of the Compliance Committee and also served on the Loan, Audit, Marketing and Credit Risk Committees.

He is the Past-President and CEO of PanAmerican Logistics, LLC and Perishables Group International JV, LLC, and is a founding partner of PanAmerican Transport, LLC. Mr. González is the former southeast agent for ACES Airlines of Colombia. In 1992, he co-founded Arcoffee Corporation; an importer/wholesaler of premium coffee brands, and served as its President and CEO until 1997. Prior to 1992, Mr. González served as the first Executive Director of the Atlanta Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

In April 2004 he received the Citizen's Diplomat award presented by the Georgia Council for International Visitors. In 1999 he received the Business Man of the Year Award presented by the Atlanta Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He was named the 1998 International Business Person of the Year by the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce and the 1997 recipient of the State of Georgia Small and Minority Business Advocate of the Year award by the US Small Business Administration.

Education: Masters in Business Administration from Mercer University
Bachelor of Science degree in Management from Purdue University

Languages: English, Spanish

Associations: Executive Chairman of CIFAL Atlanta, on the
Advisory Board of The Carter Center
Board of Directors of the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau
Board of Director of the Georgia Foreign Trade Zone
Regional Chair on the Board of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Chairman of the Dekalb Chamber of Commerce
Chairman of the Atlanta Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.
Executive committee and Board of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
Best Practices Committee of the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta.