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An Ex-Ascensus Manager Joins Pentegra

Pentegra just welcomed a former manager at **Ascensus** to its team.

Charlotte, North Carolina-based **Thad Coward** recently joined White Plains, New York-based Pentegra as director of TPA Operations, 401(k)Wire has learned. Coward will oversee Pentegra's TPA divisions in Blacklick, Ohio, Charlotte, North Carolina, and Greenville, South Carolina.

Before joining Pentegra, Coward most recently served as compliance manager at Ascensus' Charlotte location.

"We'll conduct a thorough search both internally and externally for someone to assume Thad's responsibilities," Roberta Hess, SVP of marketing and communications at Ascensus, tells **401kWire**. "We're confident in our ability to attract top talent to fill the position."

Coward will remain based in Charlotte, North Carolina, while reporting to **Lance Kesterson**, Pentegra's regional senior vice president of TPA services.

"With more than twenty years of experience in the industry, [Coward] brings operational depth and a strong track record of professional success to Pentegra," Pentegra senior vice president and COO **Michael Palmiere** states. "Thad will be instrumental in working with our TPA operations teams to ensure that Pentegra is well positioned to meet the growing demand for our expert 3(16) fiduciary outsourcing and premium TPA services."

An alumnus of Francis Marion University, Coward spent more than two years as compliance manager at National Retirement Services (NRS) before it was **acquired by Ascensus** in 2016, where he remained for an additional two years. Prior to Ascensus and NRS, Coward worked as senior compliance analyst with The Newport Group. Coward also served more than 20 years in the U.S. Air National Guard until he retired as Master Sergeant.

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