



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION



OCTOBER 9

About NCEDA

OUR MISSION

NCEDA serves as the voice for North Carolina's economic development community – providing professional development, networking opportunities and advocacy to secure the state's economic future.

ABOUT US

- Trade Association for NC's Economic Development Community
- Established in 1966
- Over 1,000 Members representing over 90 Counties
 - Municipal, County, Regional and State Practitioners
 - Academic Partners
 - Utility Partners
 - Private Allies
- Professional Development, Networking, and Advocacy
- Focus on Strategic Partnerships



Our Leadership

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

André Lennon, President

Clark Duncan, Vice President

Julie Pruett, Secretary/Treasurer

Brittany Brady, Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS

Elected to 3-Year Terms

9 Members

EX-OFFICIO

7 Members

STAFF

Liz Dobbins-Smith, Managing Director – NCEDA & NCEDA Foundation

Torsha Eubanks, Director of Events and Operations – NCEDA

Josh Grant, Director of Policy and Strategic Partnerships – NCEDA

Brandie Grubb, Marketing and Communications Manager – NCEDA

Blair Kennedy, Director of Programming and Resource Development – NCEDA Foundation

Our Role in Economic Development

WHAT WE DO

- Advocate for policies that promote economic development
- Facilitate connections between professionals & communities
- Provide education & professional development opportunities
- Support strategic initiatives that drive economic growth

KEY FOCUS AREAS

- Legislation
- Education
- Networking



Membership Benefits

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Conferences – Three annual conferences offer panel discussions and presentations on critical issues economic developers face

Webinars – Professional development webinars provide intensive sessions on specific topics

Networking Luncheons – Luncheons offer perspectives on critical regional issues

Emerging Executives Initiative – Engages members newer to the North Carolina economic development community with customized programming and community service opportunities

Practitioner Workshop – Gathering especially for economic development practitioner members to engage with each other and take a deep dive on timely topics

Mentorship Program – Opportunity for those newer to the field of economic development to learn from seasoned professionals

ADVOCACY & PUBLIC POLICY

Influence on state legislation
impacting economic development

RESOURCES

Access to industry reports, research,
our member directory, and other tools

Publications

NEWSLETTER

NCEDA's bi-monthly newsletter covers trends, legislative issues, career opportunities, & important news from around the state.

NCEDA WEBSITE

NCEDA's website offers information & links, resources, & professional development opportunities.

NCEDA MEMBER DIRECTORY

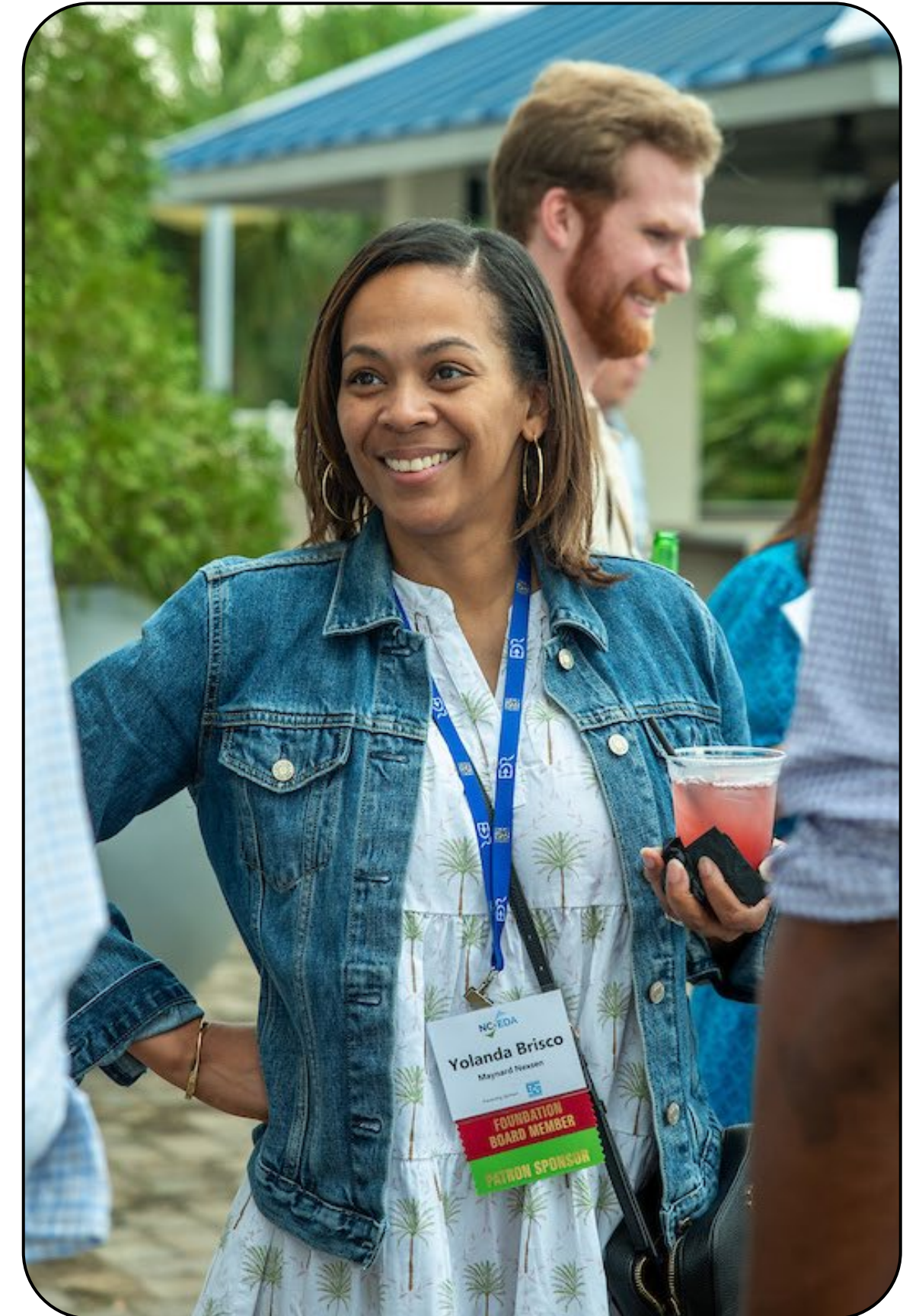
This searchable listing of economic development professionals & allies provides members with access to a vital resource – each other.

NCEDA ONLINE COMMUNITY – FORJ

This is an online discussion board for NCEDA members, providing an opportunity for members to engage with each other and share resources.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook, X, & YouTube!



Advocacy & Policy

OUR NCEDA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Product Development & Site Readiness
- Workforce Innovation
- Enhancing our Competitive Posture

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Get involved in advocacy efforts
- Engage with legislators
- Make your voice heard



NCEDA Foundation

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Created in 2020, the NCEDA Foundation advances economic development by funding professional development activities, research, and education programs, especially for underserved, distressed, and rural counties and economic developers across North Carolina.

KEY FOCUS AREAS

- **Scholarships** – Opportunities for members at all career stages
- **Fellowship Program** – Hands-on experience in economic development for graduate students
- **Partnerships** – ECU Economic Development Honors Seminar
- **Research** – NC 2050 Future of Revenue Report
- **Advancing NC** – Economic Development Awareness Program



How to Get Involved

ATTEND EVENTS

- Conferences
- Networking Luncheons
- Webinars
- Emerging Executives Forum
- Legislative Day
- Practitioner Workshop

VOLUNTEER & ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Join a Committee
 - Advancement & Engagement
 - Emerging Executives
 - Conference Planning
 - Legislative
 - Membership & Marketing
 - Professional Development
- Mentorship Program
- Book Club
- Fellowship Program
- Economic Development Career Trek
- NCEDA Leadership



2026 Fall Conference

October 19-20 • ASHEVILLE

Southeastern NC Regional Networking Luncheon

November 4 • WILMINGTON

Triangle Regional Networking Luncheon

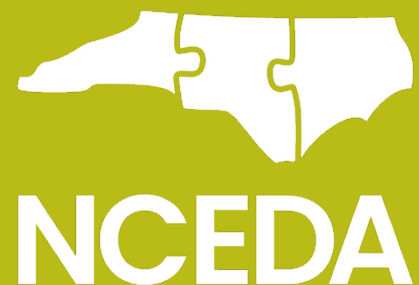
December 3 • RALEIGH

2027 Spring Conference

March 3-4 • PINEHURST

2027 Annual Conference

June 23-25 • NEW BERN



UPCOMING EVENTS

Contact Us

We're here for you!

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North Carolina Economic Development Association

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Questions?

ASK AWAY!

Thank you for becoming a member of NCEDA. We're excited to have you join our family. We look forward to supporting your success and growth.!

Welcome to the family!





NCEDA

WHERE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FITS TOGETHER