



2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPEAKER DIRECTORY **June 12-14 • Holiday Inn Resort • Wrightsville Beach**

Working Globally. Flourishing Locally.



EVAN COVINGTON CHAVEZ
Development Manager
Rocky Mount Mills

Since 2014, Evan Chavez has been development manager at Historic Rocky Mount Mills, a complex of Class A office space, residences, restaurants and a brewery incubator. Established in 1818, the historic property is believed to be the second oldest cotton mill in the state. Capitol Broadcasting Company, which led the restoration of the acclaimed American Tobacco Campus in Durham, bought Rocky Mount Mills and began reinventing it as a mixed-use destination. Evan was previously vice president of program operations at Habitat for Humanity of Wake County and spent nine years as director of real estate for Self-Help Credit Union. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science and English literature from Dickinson College.



CHRISTOPHER CHUNG
President & CEO
Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

Chris Chung became chief executive officer of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) in 2015. A public-private partnership, EDPNC is responsible for economic development functions on behalf of the State of North Carolina that include new business recruitment, existing industry support, international trade and export assistance, small business start-up counseling, and promotion of tourism, sports and film. Chris previously held executive and management responsibilities at the Missouri Partnership (2007-2014) and the Ohio Department of Development, now known as JobsOhio (1997-2007). Chris attended The Ohio State University (OSU), graduating Phi Beta Kappa with a double-major in Japanese and economics. He also completed coursework towards a Master's in Public Policy and Management at OSU. In 2018, the *Triangle Business Journal* honored Chris with its CEO of the Year Award. He and his wife Emily reside in Raleigh.

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KAREN COLLETTE
Division 3 Engineer
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Karen Collette is the division engineer for the Division 3, which covers Brunswick, Pender, Onslow, Duplin and Sampson counties. She has spent the first 20 years of her career working in various capacities as an engineer with DOT. She also worked 3 years in construction. Karen was appointed last year to Division Engineer for Division 3, the first female to become a division engineer in NCDOT history. Karen was born and raised in Wilmington, and is a civil engineer with a degree from NC State University.



PAUL COZZA
Executive Director
NC Ports Authority

Paul Cozza has been executive director of the NC Ports Authority since April 2014. Under his leadership the Authority has embarked on a \$200 million infrastructure investment plan, welcomed the largest vessels in the Port of Wilmington's history, saw the reintroduction of intermodal rail, and earned the best two tonnage and financial years on record. The Ports recently added five container service lines. Prior to joining the Ports Authority, Paul was president of The CSL Group, a marine dry bulk logistics company and the world's largest owner and operator of self-unloading vessels. He also served in management positions for The Maersk Group, Sea-Land Service Inc. and CSX Corporation. Paul is a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point and holds an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He also completed the executive program at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. Paul and his wife reside in Kure Beach and have two college-age children.



DANNY DING
Director
NC China Office

Danny Ding has served as the Director of North Carolina China Office (Investment) since 2017. He strives to promote North Carolina's brand name in China while reaching out to Chinese business leaders to develop their North Carolina investment plans. Danny has also represented the NC Department of Agriculture in China since 2013. As the co-founder and secretary-general of American States Association in China (ASAC), he is closely involved in US-China subnational economic development partnership. Previously, Danny served as the Director of Massachusetts China Office. Educated in the United Kingdom, he lives in Beijing with his wife and daughter.

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SCOTT DORNEY
Executive Director
NC Military Business Center

Scott Dorney has led the NC Military Business Center (NCMBC) since December 2004. Headquartered at Fayetteville Tech Community College, NCMBC is a statewide component of the NC Community College System that connects businesses to federal contracts, connects military and other jobseekers to employment and helps recruit defense contractors to North Carolina. Prior to joining NCMBC, Scott was chief of support services for the City of Fayetteville for six years. He served nearly 22 years on active duty as a commissioned officer in the US Army. Scott graduated from The Citadel and holds a Masters in International Affairs from Columbia University. He and his wife, Lee, have two grown daughters.



CHRIS JOHNSON
Director
Johnston County Economic Development

Chris Johnson has been director of Johnston County Economic Development since September 2013. He leads the fast-growing county's job creation, capital investment and economic diversification strategies, coordinating with a wide range of public and private partners locally, regionally and statewide. Under Chris' leadership, Johnston County has attracted nearly \$3 billion in industrial investment from new and expanding industries such as Novo Nordisk, Grifols, Berry Global, 3C Packaging and OPW. He also currently chairs the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) of the Research Triangle Regional Partnership (RTRP). From 2000-2013, Chris was executive director of the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation, where he oversaw the arrival of \$20 million in investment from public and private sources. He holds a BS in industrial technology education from East Carolina University. A native of Jackson, Chris and his wife have two college-age children.



HYUN-SOOK KIM
Director
NC Korea Office

Hyun-Sook Kim has a 20-year track record in trade and investment marketing. She was previously director for the Korea offices of the states of Missouri and Utah, developing business contracts for US suppliers and Korean importers. Hyun-Sook facilitated numerous business cooperation agreements between state governments and Korean business organizations. She holds a BS in animal resources from Kon Kuk University in Seoul and studied international management at the graduate school of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. Hyun-Sook chairs the Association of American State Offices in Korea (ASOK), which consists of sixteen US state government offices in Korea.

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COLIN KISER

Business Development Manager

Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

Colin Kiser joined the EDPNC Business Recruitment team in January 2016 after previously working as an employee benefits consultant. At EDPNC, he recruits companies that bring quality jobs and investment to North Carolina. With strategic knowledge of the business strengths and advantages of the state's various regions, Colin works with company executives and location consultants in site and building selection, labor analyses, workforce training, infrastructure needs, taxes and incentives negotiation. He received his bachelor's degree from Columbia International University in South Carolina. Colin lives in Raleigh with his wife and their two kids. In his free time, he enjoys playing soccer and exploring the great outdoors.



MICHAEL LEMANSKI

CEO and Chief Investment Officer

Rivermont Capital

Michael Lemanski has led Rivermont Capital since June 2017. The real estate investment management firm focuses on redevelopment projects in the southeastern United States through a data-driven, master redevelopment approach. Rivermont targets areas and projects that are mostly inaccessible to institutional investors. In 2011, Michael founded DFI (Development Finance Initiative), a UNC-affiliated development advisory firm representing public sector clients interested in engaging the private sector in local redevelopment projects. Under his direction, DFI successfully created a \$1 billion+ portfolio of redevelopment projects in 50+ downtowns across NC, VA, and SC. Michael has taught and lectured on real estate development, urban revitalization and real estate finance for UNC, the Urban Land Institute and Duke University. He earned a BS in chemical engineering from NC State University and holds an MBA from UNC Chapel Hill and an MDS in Environment Science from NC State.



WILL MILLER

Deputy Secretary

NC Department of Commerce

Will Miller has been Deputy Secretary of Commerce since April 2017. An executive with extensive experience in the business, non-profit and government sectors, Will's background in commercial real estate includes a partnership role at Beacon Partners in Charlotte, where he worked extensively with economic developers and real estate professionals. In 2005, he founded Social Venture Partners (SVP), the Southeast's first venture philanthropy initiative. To date, SVP has invested nearly \$1.5 million in over a dozen non-profits in Mecklenburg County. Working at the behest of Charlotte Mayor Anthony Fox, Will successfully secured Charlotte's bid to host the 2012 Democratic National Convention, which would have the largest economic impact of any single event ever held in North Carolina. He is a native of Winston-Salem and is a graduate of Davidson College.

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SCOTT SAYLOR
President
North Carolina Railroad Company

Scott Saylor has been president of the NC Railroad Company since 2000. He previously served as the company's executive vice president and general counsel. Scott's management responsibilities extend across all operations, planning, and collaboration with public and private partners in bringing rail-served industries to North Carolina. The NC Railroad Company earns over \$19 million in annual revenues and employs a staff of 19. Its 317-mile rail line, a major industrial transportation artery, extends from Charlotte to the Port of Morehead City. Scott holds a BS from UNC Chapel Hill and earned his JD from NC Central University School of Law. He also completed the Young Executive Program at the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC. Scott and his wife Fran live in Raleigh. The couple has two sons.



SUMIO SHIBATA
Director
NC Japan Office

Sumio Shibata has directed trade and investment for North Carolina's Japan Office since 2002. From 1999 to 2001, Sumio was senior trade advisor at the NC Department of Commerce, promoting North Carolina exports as part of the Japan External Trade Organization. Prior to that, he worked at Nissho Iwai Corporation, one of Japan's largest import-export companies (now Sojitz Corporation) for more than 30 years. Sumio was president of the American State Offices Association in Japan from 2007 to 2009. Fluent in Japanese, English and Spanish, he was educated at Kobe University of Commerce.



ALLEN THOMAS
Executive Director
North Carolina Global TransPark Authority

Allen Thomas has a long record of service to eastern North Carolina in both the public and private sectors. Prior to becoming executive director of the Global TransPark in June 2017, he served three terms as mayor of Greenville. While mayor, he launched an economic development strategy for the city that resulted in more than \$850 million in new development and revitalized the city's riverfront. An advocate of regionalism, Allen helped lead in the creation of Quad East, an alliance of cities and counties working to advance mutual economic interests. His leadership on transportation issues resulted in better connections between eastern North Carolina and the national ground transportation grid. Earlier in his career, Allen co-founded IQMax Healthcare Technologies and worked as a business recruiter at the NC Department of Commerce. Allen received his undergraduate degree in business management at East Carolina University and went on to earn his master's in Business from UNC Chapel Hill. As a Cahn Fellow, he completed the Senior Executive Program for State and Local Government at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Allen and his wife, Janet, are parents to two daughters and a son.

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NORRIS TOLSON
CEO and President
Carolinas Gateway Partnership

Norris Tolson is the CEO and President for the Carolinas Gateway Partnership. Most recently he served as a senior advisor for economic development with the Williams Mullen law firm, and prior to that he was President & CEO of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. Norris also served as North Carolina's Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Revenue and Secretary of Transportation. He was elected to the NC General Assembly and served in the House of Representatives from 1994 until 1997 representing parts of Edgecombe, Nash, Pitt and Wilson Counties at the time. He graduated from NC State University and served in the US Army Counter Intelligence Corps from 1963-1965. Norris and his wife have three children and five grandchildren.



MIKE WALDEN
Economist, NC State University

Mike Walden began his faculty career at NC State in 1978. He is currently William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and a member of the graduate economics faculty at the Poole College of Management. He also is a visiting professor at Duke University. Mike's teaching, research and extension responsibilities span consumer economics, economic outlook and public policy. The most recent of his eight books, *North Carolina in the Connected Age*, was published last year by UNC Press. Mike directs the semiannual economic forecast, *The North Carolina Economic Outlook*. He has made numerous national television appearances and been quoted in *USA Today*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post* and other papers. Mike has served on several local and state level commissions and worked on the staffs of the State and Local Fiscal Modernization Study Commission and the UNC Tomorrow Commission. His numerous academic and public awards include the UNC Board of Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Mike earned his Ph.D degree from Cornell University.

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NAPOLEON WALLACE
Deputy Secretary
NC Department of Commerce

Napoleon Wallace has led Commerce's Rural Economic Development and Workforce Solutions since 2017. In this role, he oversees a team of specialists that helps rural communities prepare infrastructure for attracting business and spurring economic growth. He also directs Commerce's efforts to strengthen the state's workforce programs and streamline the delivery of services to both jobseekers and employers. Napoleon's 15+ years of experience in finance and community economic development have included the role of social investment officer at the Kresge Foundation, where he made program- and mission-related investments in the areas of health and human services. He also served on the executive staff at Self-Help, where he managed several community and economic development initiatives. Napoleon was an investment banker with Wachovia Capital Markets (now Wells Fargo Securities) and a community banker with M&F Bancorp's Commercial Credit group. Napoleon earned a BS in finance from NC Central University and an MBA from UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School.



COLLEEN WALTON
Marketing Strategist
Brand Acceleration

As a marketing strategist at Brand Acceleration, Colleen oversees brand identification and marketing program implementation for communities, counties and regions across a 17-state territory. Colleen also trains clients on establishing a strong social media presence through easy-to-use strategies. She's a regular attendee and presenter at state and regional economic development conferences.

Colleen is an active member of NCEDA, as well as the Southern Economic Development Council, the International Economic Development Council and the Florida Economic Development Council. She is graduate of the Basic Economic Development Course at her alma mater, Ball State University.



JULIE WILSEY
Director
Wilmington International Airport

Julie Wilsey has been airport director at Wilmington International Airport (ILM) since December 2013. In 1999, after serving for six years as a US Army Engineering officer, Julie joined the ILM team as the Director of Facilities. Since then, she has helped ILM grow with airfield and facility improvements, completing over \$100 million worth of capital projects. She earned an Accredited Airport Executive designation from the American Association of Airport Executives in 2008. Julie is a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point and holds an MBA from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. An active member of her community and the aviation profession, Julie serves on the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission, the North Carolina Aviation Task Force, Cape Fear Area United Way Board of Directors, the North Carolina Airport Association and the Southeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives. Julie is married to Donald Wilsey, a retired US Army officer, and has a stepdaughter and two cats.