



NCEDA FOUNDATION 4th ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

NCEDA 2025 Fall Conference • October 20-21 • Asheville, NC

For more than half a century, the North Carolina Economic Development Association (NCEDA) and its over 950 members have led successful efforts to promote North Carolina as an ideal destination for business investment, serving as the voice for North Carolina's economic development community by providing professional development, networking opportunities, and advocacy to secure the state's economic future.

The NCEDA Foundation supports the advancement of North Carolina's economic development profession by funding professional development, research, and educational programs—especially for underserved, distressed, and rural communities and practitioners across the state.

During **NCEDA's 2025 Fall Conference in Asheville**, the NCEDA Foundation will host its 4th Annual Silent Auction to benefit the Foundation's areas of work. The 2025 Spring Silent Auction helped the Foundation raise over \$12,000!

AREAS OF WORK



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS

The Foundation expands access to professional development by offering scholarships—prioritizing underrepresented individuals and those serving underserved or distressed areas. Scholarships are available statewide for a variety of professional development opportunities.

Projected Three-Year Outcomes

- Continue to award at least 25 scholarships totaling \$40,000 each year
- 25% of scholarship recipients will complete economic development certification
- Scholarship recipients will represent a broad range of geographic, socioeconomic, and demographic backgrounds



AWARENESS & TRAINING PROGRAMS

The Foundation works to educate community and elected leaders across North Carolina about the purpose, practices, and needs of economic development programs and practitioners. It also provides NCEDA Fellows from the state's higher education institutions with internship opportunities at economic development organizations, with a focus on placements in rural and underserved areas.

Projected Three-Year Outcomes

- Partner with five or more universities, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HCBUs)
- Fund 16 community and elected leader education sessions
- Fund 12 Fellowships



RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The Foundation supports efforts to review best practices in economic development programs and enhance North Carolina's overall competitiveness. It works to inform state-level economic development policy and produce resources that aid in shaping local city and county strategies. Additionally, the Foundation raises awareness of emerging trends that impact economic development across the state.

Projected Three-Year Outcomes

- Fund three research projects