
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**GASTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPER RECEIVES
2009 ECONOMIC DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Donny Hicks was honored with his award at the NCEDA 2009 Annual Conference

RALEIGH, NC – Gaston County Economic Development Commission Executive Director, Donny Hicks, received the North Carolina Economic Developers Association's (NCEDA) 2009 Economic Developer of the Year Award in recognition of his economic development work over the past year.

The award was presented on June 16 at the NCEDA 2009 Annual Conference in Atlantic Beach, N.C. This special award is given once a year to a North Carolina professional who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in economic development. Hicks was recognized for both his leadership in Gaston County and for all of North Carolina.

“Donny has made a true difference for both Gaston Country and the state of North Carolina,” said Scott Hamilton, President of NCEDA. “He has worked tirelessly as a champion for North Carolina’s competitiveness and to bring jobs to all 100 counties.”

Hicks has had extensive involvement in the incentives debate within the North Carolina legislature. He is also an active participant in the Charlotte Regional Partnership’s Economic Development Advisory Council meetings and serves on the Charlotte Region advisory committee for the North Carolina Biotechnology Center.

N.C. Senator David Hoyle said, “Donny is the embodiment of dedication to the profession of economic development. He is a consummate professional, and his insight on these matters is second to none.”

Tony Almeida, Chairman of the Charlotte Regional Partnership commented, “Donny is always a champion for economic development. Not only does he see the bigger picture, but he is also very knowledgeable about the impacts of policies on economic development.”

ABOUT NCEDA:

The North Carolina Economic Developers Association is the leading statewide association of professional economic developers and their allies in North Carolina. The nearly 600 members promote the state and its communities as places for new economic activity. They are on the front line of economic development in North Carolina. Based in Raleigh, NCEDA provides professional development, advocacy and information services for its members.

For more information, visit NCEDA’s Web site, www.nceda.org.