



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NCEDA ANNOUNCES 2010-2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RALEIGH, N.C. – The North Carolina Economic Developers Association (NCEDA) has elected its 2010-2011 board of directors.

The 2010-2011 officers are:

- President – **Jimmy Smith**, Director of Economic and Community Development, Four County Electric Membership Corporation
- Vice-President – **Bonnie Renfro**, President, Randolph County Economic Development Corporation
- Secretary/Treasurer – **Linda Weiner**, Special Assistant to the President – Engagement & Economic Development, N.C. Community College System
- Immediate Past President – **Katherine Thomas**, Director – Community Relations and Economic Development, Progress Energy

NCEDA's incoming President has been employed with the Four County Electric Membership Corporation for the past 23 years. Jimmy Smith serves as the Director of Economic and Community Development, with the primary responsibilities of: economic and community development, key accounts for large commercial and industrial customers, government relations and legislative lobbying.

Active in his community, Smith serves on a number of boards across the state. He is currently Chairman of Wilmington Regional Film Commission, President of the Pender County Community Foundation, Chairman of the Pender Economic Development Alliance, board member and past Chairman of Pender Adult Services, board member of North Carolina's Southeast, a board member and past Chairman of Cape Fear Resource, Conservation & Development, past board member of Wilmington Committee of 100, Inc., and past board member of the Wallace 100 Committee.

A graduate of East Carolina University (ECU) with a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and a minor in Urban & Regional Planning, Smith also participated in graduate studies in Geography at ECU.

Smith is a native of Lenoir County and currently resides in New Hanover County

NCEDA also elected three new board members, who will serve until 2013:

- **Ernest C. Pearson**, Member, Nexsen Pruet PLLC
- **Rodger M. Sauls, Jr.**, Director – Marketing & Business Development, Yonkers Industries, Inc.
- **Judy Stevens**, Director, Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation

“The 2009-2010 NCEDA board members should be commended for their tireless efforts on behalf of job creation and retention in our state, and I have no doubt that the individuals taking on the roles of new board members and officers will continue to add to the legacy of great leaders in economic development,” said Scott T. Hamilton, NCEDA past president and chair of NCEDA’s Nominating Committee.

The new officers and board members officially assume their positions July 1, 2010.

About NCEDA

NCEDA is the leading statewide association of professional economic developers and their allies in North Carolina. Its nearly 600 members promote the state and their 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 www.nceda.org.

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