



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NCEDA ANNOUNCES 2009-2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RALEIGH, N.C. – The North Carolina Economic Developers Association (NCEDA) has elected its 2009-2010 board of directors.

The 2009-2010 officers are:

- President – **Katherine Thomas**, Director – Community Relations and Economic Development, Progress Energy
- Vice-President – **Jimmy Smith**, Director of Economic and Community Development, Four County Electric Membership Corporation
- Secretary/Treasurer – **Bonnie Renfro**, President, Randolph County Economic Development Corporation
- Immediate Past President – **Scott T. Hamilton**, President & CEO, AdvantageWest Economic Development Group

NCEDA's incoming President has been a Progress Energy (formerly CP&L) employee for more than 25 years. Katherine Keith Thomas currently directs the company's community relations and economic development section in the Carolinas. Since moving to Raleigh in 1997, Katherine has been active in the triangle and throughout the Carolinas and Florida, accepting leadership positions in a number of community and economic development organizations. In addition to NCEDA, Thomas presently serves on the North Carolina Rural Center Board of Directors; Research Triangle Regional Partnership Executive Board; North Carolina Chamber Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee; North Carolina Commerce Trade and Development Executive Board; Duke Raleigh Hospital Advisory Board and the Meredith College Business Advisory Board – just to name a few.

She has completed Leadership North Carolina (2000), Leadership Raleigh (1998), and the Duke Executive Leadership and Grinnell Leadership programs. A native of Gastonia, Thomas is a Meredith College alumnae and magna cum laude graduate. She and her husband, Dr. Ken Thomas and son, Will, reside in Raleigh, NC.

NCEDA also elected three new board members, who will serve until 2012:

- **Dr. Pat Mitchell**, Director of Economic Development, Ashe County Government
- **Jennifer Mizelle**, Economic Development Director, Town of Holly Springs
- **Harry Poovey**, Manager of N.C. Economic Development, Duke Energy

“The 2008-2009 NCEDA board members should be commended for their tireless work on behalf of our state, and I know this group of new board members and officers will continue the legacy of great leadership and a mission to bring economic development to all North Carolina's 100

counties,” said Donny Hicks, NCEDA past president and chair of NCEDA Nominating Committee.

The new officers and board members officially assumed their positions July 1, 2009.

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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