

NCEDA DEVELOPMENTS



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NCEDA: Making Critical Connections



In this, my first NCEDA President's Message, my top priority is to thank our entire membership for your commitment to economic development. Professionals like you are playing a vital role in North Carolina's economic recovery. So, keep up the good work!

Also, please join me in recognizing Scott Hamilton for his leadership as NCEDA President over the past year. I commend Scott for challenging us to be "Ready to Respond," as part of his theme for the year. Over the past year, Scott has worked tirelessly to ensure this association's success and has spent many hours burning up the roads between Western North Carolina and the General Assembly to make sure that NCEDA's voice continues to be heard by our state leaders. Scott, on behalf of the Association, thank you for your service and your leadership!

My sincere appreciation to those who have already renewed your membership for the 2009-2010 year and welcome to all of our new members! Your continued support of NCEDA is greatly appreciated. Thanks to you all, we reached our membership goal of 600 members last year! Let's set a goal to exceed that record in 2009-2010. (To find instructions for membership renewal, see page 3 of the newsletter.

Last month NCEDA hosted its 43rd Annual Conference, where we focused on the importance of "Making Critical Connections" – specifically regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We experienced excellent visible support by of our members and guests – 250 in total! And the speakers connected us to timely and valuable information.

Due to the extremely positive feedback we received regarding the program content, we have posted all presentations and handouts on the NCEDA homepage (www.nceda.org). Whether you were able to attend the conference or not, these presentations could be very useful resources.

***President's Message continued on page 2 ***



President's Message Continued

We will continue the theme of "Making Critical Connections" throughout the coming year. The idea of making connections has multiple meaning for me, as I hope it does for you as well.

In the electric industry making critical connections is a must – the right people, tools, connections to deliver our product in a high quality, dependable, economical manner. The world of economic development requires different types of connections, but they are no less critical to our success.

Throughout the year, we will explore those critical connections through our professional development programs, conferences and membership communications. Your input is vital to our continued improvement and success. Please help us to identify connections with organizations, individuals and tools that could enhance our (individual and group) results.

I look forward to connecting with each of you during the next 12 months, hearing your feedback and sharing best practices. Thank you for this opportunity to serve as your 2009-2010 NCEDA President!



NCEDA President 2009-2010

NCEDA 2009 Fall Conference Information

The NCEDA 2009 Fall Conference is scheduled for October 13-14, 2009 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Concord, N.C.

More details about the conference program and registration will be forthcoming, but we encourage participants to go ahead and make hotel reservations, as the room block will expire on September 11, 2009.

To book a room under the NCEDA room block and get the discounted rate of \$129, attendees will need the group code: EDA. Guests may book their reservations by either:

- Calling the hotel directly at 704-455-8200 and speaking to the Embassy Suites Hotel reservations department.
- Calling 1-800-EMBASSY
- Going online to www.embassysuitesconcord.com and entering the Group/Convention Code: EDA.



UNC
SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

Registration is now open for the **37th Annual Basic Economic Development Course** at the **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**. The course will be offered on **August 3-7, 2009** in Chapel Hill, NC. Visit the course web-site at www.cednc.unc.edu/bedc for more information and to register online.

Contact Carla Stowe at cstowe@sog.unc.edu or 919-843-8176 with questions.

NOTE: Space is limited--course fills up quickly-- Register now!

2009-2010 NCEDA Membership Renewal

Thank you for your continued support!

The Board of Directors of the North Carolina Economic Developers Association (NCEDA), *thanks you* for your continued support and invite you to renew your membership for the 2009-2010 year (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010). **Your support of NCEDA has allowed us to have a very successful year.**

NCEDA offers a full slate of programs and networking opportunities including the Fall, MidWinter and Annual conferences, networking luncheons, a monthly newsletter, a resource Web site, legislative updates and alerts while the legislature is in session, and the membership directory.

To make the renewal steps as simple as possible for you, we'll be processing all membership renewals online at www.nceda.org.

The deadline for membership renewals has been extended to August 1, 2009. However, we encourage you to renew your membership as soon as possible.

Simply log onto your NCEDA Web account using your email address and password. Review your personal contact information listed online and please make any necessary changes. All changes you make will update our online database immediately.

The cost for dues will be \$200 for the 2009-2010 year. We accept checks and credit cards (VISA or MasterCard ONLY). Please indicate your payment type on the online form.

The members make NCEDA the organization that it is, and we thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please contact the NCEDA office at (888) 246-2332 or e-mail us at nceda@capstrat.com. We value your membership and look forward to another outstanding year.

2009 NCEDA Annual Conference Wrap-Up

Katherine Thomas (NCEDA President) and Scott T. Hamilton (NCEDA Immediate Past President) presented the NCEDA Economic Developer of the Year Award to Donny Hicks (Gaston County EDC).



Dr. Sean Snaith (center) shared a unique look at the current economic downturn, providing education as well as entertainment with his presentation. A special thanks goes to Progress Energy and Duke Energy (represented here by Katherine Thomas and Harry Poovey respectively) for their sponsorship of this speaker.



NCEDA was honored to have Deputy Sec. of Commerce Dale Carroll and Dempsey Benton, Director of the N.C. Office of Economic Recovery, present information regarding the Federal Stimulus Package. Here they are pictured with Katherine Thomas and Scott T. Hamilton.



Thank you to our Annual Conference Sponsors

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Wayne County Development Alliance

Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice

Meet Your Board

**This month we will feature your new NCEDA President
Katherine Thomas**



NCEDA's 2009-2010 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.

Meet Your Patron Sponsor

This month we will feature Patron Sponsor: Progress Energy

Progress Energy (NYSE: PGN), headquartered in Raleigh, N.C., is a Fortune 250 diversified energy company with more than 24,500 megawatts of generation capacity and \$9 billion in annual revenues. The company's holdings include two electric utilities serving approximately 2.9 million customers in North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. Progress Energy also includes non-regulated operations covering competitive generation, energy marketing, natural gas production, fuel extraction and broadband capacity.

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