



TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Wilmington Networking Luncheon Agenda

October 25, 2023 • Noon – 1:30 pm

Cape Fear Community College Union Station

AGENDA

11:30 am – Noon **Registration / Networking**

Noon – 12:30 pm **Luncheon**

12:30 – 12:40 pm **Welcome / Introductions**

RANDALL JOHNSON

Executive Director, Southeastern Office – NC Biotechnology Center
NCEDA Foundation Vice Chair / NCEDA Past President

12:40 – 1:25 pm **Panel Discussion**

JOE MELVIN, CEcD

Senior Director of Economic Development – Alliance Consulting Engineers
Panel Moderator

JEFF BOURK, AAE

Airport Director – Wilmington International Airport

BRIAN CLARK

Executive Director – North Carolina State Ports Authority

JASON ORTHNER

Rail Division Director – North Carolina Department of Transportation

1:25 – 1:30 pm **Closing Remarks**

RANDALL JOHNSON

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES**

NORTH CAROLINA'S SOUTHEAST

THOMAS CONSTRUCTION GROUP

**UNC WILMINGTON
OFFICE OF INNOVATION &
COMMERCIALIZATION**

PRESENTERS



Joe Melvin, CEcD is the Senior Director of Economic Development at Alliance Consulting Engineers. Joe has been in the economic development profession for 16 years in both regional and statewide roles focused on business attraction and site development. He achieved Certified Economic Developer status in January 2018 and was recognized as one of North America's Top 50 Economic Developers in 2020 by Consultant Connect. Joe has a BA degree in Psychology from UNC Chapel Hill and a MA degree in Education from UNC Wilmington.



Jeff Bourk, AAE is the Airport Director at the Wilmington International Airport, a position he has held since January 2022. Jeff has over 30 years of aviation experience, including 25 years focused on airport operations and management. He received his pilot's license at age 17, over 30 years ago. Jeff serves on multiple boards to advance the community such as the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Regional Economic Development Board.



Brian Clark is the Executive Director of the North Carolina State Ports Authority, a position he has held since January 2021. Under Brian's leadership, North Carolina Ports has completed several critical infrastructure improvements. Brian has more than 25 years' experience in the maritime industry having worked in senior positions in port operations in several US locations. Most recently, Brian served as Managing Director for APM Terminals in Port Elizabeth, New Jersey. He is a graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy and Duke University's Fuqua School of Business Executive Education Program.



Jason Orthner is the Rail Division Director for the NC Department of Transportation, a position he has held since June 2018. Jason has worked in railroad project and program management for over 27 years. As Rail Division Director, Jason is responsible for leading statewide rail initiatives including safety, planning, engineering, construction, and freight and passenger programs. Jason holds a BS degree in Civil Engineering from NC State University, is a registered Professional Engineer and is a Certified Public Manager.

Presenting Sponsor

