



NCEDA 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 11-13 • Hotel Ballast • Wilmington

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CONVERGENT NONPROFIT SOLUTIONS

CREATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING

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GASTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Exhibitors

365 DEGREE TOTAL MARKETING

BL COMPANIES

BRANCH CIVIL

CENTURY CONTRACTORS

EDIFICE CONSTRUCTION

FAYETTEVILLE-CUMBERLAND COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOLDMAN SACHS 10,000 SMALL BUSINESSES PROGRAM

Agenda

Candy Basket Sponsor: **ELECTRICITIES OF NORTH CAROLINA**

Lanyards Sponsor: **NC GLOBAL TRANSPARK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGION**

Notepads Sponsor: **TBD**

Productivity Bell Sponsor: **MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE**

WiFi Sponsor: **BRANCH CIVIL**

Wednesday, June 11

10:30 am – 4 pm

OPTIONAL NETWORKING ACTIVITIES *(separate registration required)*

10:30 am – 4 pm

Golf Outing

Beau Rivage

Golf Sponsor: **TBD**

11:30 am – 4 pm

Half-Day Fishing Excursion

Whipsaw Charters

Fishing Sponsor: **TBD**

1:30 – 3:30 pm

Pickleball Clinic and Round Robin Tournament

Beau Rivage

Pickleball Sponsor: **HENDERSON COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

1:30 – 3:30 pm

Kayaking or Stand-Up Paddleboard Waterway Tour

Wrightsville SUP

Kayaking Sponsor: **TBD**

2:30 – 4:30 pm

Wilmington Beer Trolley

TBD

Trolley Sponsor: **TBD**

3 pm

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DESK OPENS

Lower Lobby

Refreshments Sponsor: **ENBRIDGE**

4:45 – 5:30 pm

ELITE ENGAGEMENT RECEPTION

Grand Ballroom / Terrace

NCEDA's Board of Directors, Past Presidents, Emerging Executives, New Members, Mentorship Program Participants, Scholarship Recipient Alumni and NC Certified Economic Developers

Reception Sponsor: **FAYETTEVILLE CUMBERLAND COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

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5:30 – 7 pm
Grand Ballroom / Terrace

WELCOMING RECEPTION

Reception Sponsor: **TBD**
Entertainment Sponsor: **TBD**

7 pm – until

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

7:30 – 9 pm
*Cape Fear Riverboats
Osprey*

OPTIONAL NETWORKING ACTIVITY *(separate registration required)*

Sunset Cruise
Cruise Sponsor: **TBD**

Thursday, June 12

6 – 7 am
Wilmington Riverwalk

OPTIONAL NETWORKING ACTIVITY *(separate registration required)*

NCEDA Fun Run
Fun Run Sponsors: **CREATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING •
GASTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

7 am
Lower Lobby

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DESK OPENS

7 – 8:30 am
Grand Ballroom Concourse

NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Breakfast Sponsor: **BL COMPANIES**

8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Grand Ballroom

GENERAL SESSION

8:30 – 8:40 am

Welcoming Remarks **BRITTANY BRADY**

President – Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development
NCEDA Vice President / Annual Conference Committee Chair

8:40 – 8:55 am

NCEDA Business Session ***Board of Directors Update*** **GARY LANIER**

Director – Columbus County Economic Development Commission
NCEDA President

8:55 – 9:35 am

Commerce/EDPNC Update **TREY CASH, moderator**

Economic Development Director – Greene and Lenoir County
NCEDA Board of Directors / Legislative Committee Vice Chair

CHRISTOPHER CHUNG

CEO – Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

REGINALD SPEIGHT

Assistant Secretary, Rural Economic Development
North Carolina Department of Commerce

9:35 – 10:05 am

Western NC Tourism Update **WIT TUTTELL**

Vice President, Tourism – Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

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10:05 – 10:15 am	Interactive Session – NC Trivia
10:15 – 10:45 am	Networking Break Networking Break Sponsor: TBD
10:45 – 11:15 am	Retail Strategies Presentation ELLIOTT COOK Director of Real Estate – Retail Strategies
11:15 – 11:30 am	Downtown Wilson Redevelopment Spotlight KIMBERLY VAN DYK Planning & Community Revitalization Director – City of Wilson
11:30 am – Noon	North Carolina’s Land Use and Community Development Imperatives and Challenges CHUCK FLINK Director, Pappas Real Estate Development Program – NC State University
Noon – 12:25 pm	Recognition of the 2025 North Carolina Certified Economic Developer Recipients KELLY ANDREWS Director – Pitt County Economic Development <i>NC Certified Economic Developer Program Capstone Director</i> CHARLES HAYES Senior Fellow in Residence – East Carolina University <i>NCEDA Past President</i> GARY LANIER Director – Columbus County Economic Development Commission <i>NCEDA President</i>
12:25 – 12:30 pm	Closing Remarks / Adjourn BRITTANY BRADY President – Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development <i>NCEDA Vice President / Annual Conference Committee Chair</i>
12:30 – 5 pm	OPEN AFTERNOON (lunch on your own!)
1:30 pm – 4 pm	OPTIONAL NETWORKING ACTIVITIES (<i>separate registration required</i>)
1:30 – 3:30 pm <i>Wilmington Port</i>	NC Ports Tour (<i>no fee</i>) Tour Sponsor: TBD
1:30 – 4:45 pm	Wrightsville Beach Shuttle (<i>no fee</i>) Shuttle Sponsor: NORTH CAROLINA’S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
2 – 4 pm <i>Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Lawn</i>	Cornhole Tournament Tourney Sponsors: ECS SOUTHEAST • COLUMBUS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
2:30 – 4 pm	Old Wilmington’s Architectural History Walking Tour (<i>no fee</i>) Tour Sponsor: TBD

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5 – 9:30 pm

NCEDA 2025 AWARDS CEREMONY AND DINNER RECEPTION

5 – 5:30 pm

Cape Fear Lobby

Cocktail Reception

Reception Sponsor: **TBD**

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Cape Fear Ballroom

Awards Ceremony

Ceremony Sponsor: **TBD**

6:30 – 9:30 pm

Grand Ballroom

Networking Dinner Reception, honoring NCEDA Past Presidents

Dinner Reception Sponsor: **TBD**

Entertainment Sponsor: **TBD**

Friday, June 13

6 – 7 am

Ballast Pool Deck

OPTIONAL NETWORKING ACTIVITY *(separate registration required)*

Yoga

7 am

Lower Lobby

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DESK OPENS

7 – 8:30 am

Grand Ballroom Concourse

NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Breakfast Sponsor: **NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD COMPANY**

8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Grand Ballroom

GENERAL SESSION

8:30 – 8:35 am

Welcoming Remarks

BRITTANY BRADY

President – Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development

NCEDA Vice President / Annual Conference Committee Chair

8:35 – 9 am

NCEDA Business Session

Nominating Committee Report

JOANNA HELMS

Director – Apex Economic Development

NCEDA Immediate Past President / Nominating Committee Chair

Board Member Recognition / Passing of the Gavel

GARY LANIER

NCEDA President

BRITTANY BRADY

NCEDA Vice President

Emerging Executives Report and Mentorship Program Recognition

ALBERT ALWANG

Economic Development Manager – Wake County Economic Development

NCEDA Emerging Executives Initiative Chair

ANNA WALKER

Economic Development Manager – North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives

NCEDA Emerging Executives Initiative Vice Chair

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9 – 9:45 am	Fired Up, Burned Out or In-Between: Personal and Professional Resiliency BOB PRESCOTT Senior Partner – Transformation Partners
9:45 – 10:10 am	NCEDA Foundation Update and 2024 Fellowship Highlights RANDALL JOHNSON Executive Director, Southeastern Office – North Carolina Biotechnology Center <i>NCEDA Foundation Chair / NCEDA Past President</i> CAMERON BROWN MPA Student – UNC Chapel Hill NATALIE HAWKINS President – Moore County Economic Development Partnership <i>NCEDA Board Member</i>
10:10 – 10:40 am	Networking Break Networking Break Sponsor: TBD
10:40 – 10:50 am	Interactive Session – Bingo
10:50 – 11:30 am	ParkEast Business Park Master Planning Panel JOE MELVIN , <i>moderator</i> Vice President – North Carolina's Southeast CHIP CRUMPLER County Manager – Wayne County MARY LESA PEGG Industrial Development Manager, NC – Norfolk Southern Corporation MARK POPE President – North Carolina Global TransPark Economic Development Region
11:30 am – Noon	Economic Outlook TED ABERNATHY Managing Partner – Economic Leadership
Noon	Closing Remarks / Adjourn BRITTANY BRADY President – Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development <i>NCEDA Vice President / Annual Conference Committee Chair</i>

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