



## 2026 EMERGING EXECUTIVES FORUM

May 11-12 • Kinston

*From Collaboration to Leadership:  
Growing Your Impact in Economic Development*

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## Meeting Locations

<b>BASE HOTEL:</b>	<b>Mother Earth Motor Lodge</b> 501 North Heritage Street – Kinston, NC 28501
<b>RECEPTION:</b>	<b>Mother Earth Brewing Tap Room</b> 311 North Heritage Street – Kinston, NC 28501
<b>FORUM:</b>	<b>Community Council for the Arts</b> 400 North Queen Street – Kinston, NC 28501

## Agenda

### Monday, May 11

Afternoon

**ARRIVAL / HOTEL CHECK-IN**

Noon – 3:30 pm

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES**

12:30 – 2 pm

**Simply Natural Creamery Tour (Snow Hill)**

Tour Sponsor: [Greene County Economic Development Partnership](#)

2:30 – 4 pm

**NC Global TransPark Tour (Kinston)**

4 – 6 pm

**Networking at Mother Earth Lodge**

6:30 – 8 pm

**WELCOMING RECEPTION AND DINNER**

Reception Sponsor: [North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives](#)

8 pm – Until

**DRINKS ON YOUR OWN**

### Tuesday, May 12

8:30 – 9 am

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION / BREAKFAST**

9 am – 12:45 pm

**GENERAL SESSION**

9 – 9:10 am

**Welcoming Remarks**

**ANNA WALKER**

Economic Development Manager – North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives  
*NCEDA Board of Directors / Emerging Executives Committee Chair*

**JAMES CARTER**

Talent Development Program Manager – City of Charlotte  
*Emerging Executives Committee Vice Chair*

9:10 – 9:20 am

**Lenoir County / Eastern North Carolina Welcome**

**TREY CASH**

COO – NC Global TransPark Economic Development Region

**THE HON. LINDA ROUSE-SUTTON**

Chair – Lenoir County Board of Commissioners

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9:20 – 9:40 am	<b>Amazon Project Spotlight</b> <b>MARTIE BUTLER</b> Economic Development Director – Richmond County
9:40 – 10:10 am	<b>Leadership Profile</b> <b>ANNA WALKER</b> , <i>interviewer</i>  <b>JENNIFER LANTZ</b> Executive Director – Wilson Economic Development Council
10:10 – 10:50 am	<b>Regional Collaboration and Innovative Partnerships in Economic Development</b> <b>TREY CASH</b> , <i>moderator</i> Chief Operating Officer North Carolina Global TransPark Economic Development Region  <b>SHAYLA DOUGLAS</b> Assistant Director – Pitt County Economic Development  <b>DAVID LAMBERT</b> Director of Strategic Projects – NC Department of Commerce  <b>KEVIN SZOSTAK</b> Director of Economic Development – Alamance Chamber
10:50 – 11:10 am	<b>Networking Break</b>
11:10 – 11:25 am	<b>International Etiquette</b> <b>JONATHAN BREWSTER</b> Business Recruitment Manager – Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina  <b>SAVANNAH WALKER</b> Business Development Coordinator – Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina
11:25 am – Noon	<b>Successful Site Visits: Strategy, Execution, and Leadership</b> <b>ASHLEY CAGLE</b> , <i>moderator</i> Executive Director, Economic & Land Development- WithersRavenel  <b>JOE MELVIN</b> Vice President – North Carolina’s Southeast  <b>STEVEN PEARCE</b> Vice President, Infrastructure & Economic Development – McGuireWoods Consulting  <b>MARVIN PRICE</b> Executive Vice President, Economic Development – Greensboro Chamber of Commerce
Noon – 12:45 pm	<b>Roundtables Session: Incentives, Compliance &amp; Site Development 201</b> <b>BUILDING REUSE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bethany Davenport</b> Fiscal and Compliance Manager – NC Department of Commerce</li><li>• <b>Nichole Gross</b> Senior Program Manager/Lead Staff Liaison, Rural Infrastructure Authority NC Department of Commerce</li></ul>

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## ONE NC

- **Kenny Stagg**  
One NC Program Manager – NC Department of Commerce

## JDIG

- **Katy Parker**  
Director of Project Management  
Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

## GOLDEN LEAF

- **Katie Fisher**  
Program Officer – Golden LEAF Foundation
- **Ted Lord**  
Senio Vice President – Golden LEAF Foundation

## RURAL GRANTS: ARC, CDBG, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND & MORE!

- **Hazel Edmond**  
Director, Rural Engagement & Investment Programs  
NC Department of Commerce

## UTILITIES & SITE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

- **Courtney Bird**  
Senior Economic Development Manager – Duke Energy
- **Audrey Boone**  
Senior Economic Developer – Electricities of North Carolina
- **Ann Fitts**  
Community Development Specialist – North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives
- **Patrick Pierce**  
Director, Economic and Business Development – North Carolina Railroad Company

## DOWNTOWN MAIN STREET

- **Chuck Halsall**  
Program Specialist, NC Main Street Program – NC Department of Commerce

12:45 pm

**Transition to Lunch**

12:45 – 2 pm

**LUNCHEON**

12:45 – 1:15 pm

**Luncheon / Networking**

1:15 – 1:55 pm

**Keynote Presentation**

**ALANNA HOWARD**

CEO & Owner – Garrison Consulting Group

1:55 – 2 pm

**Closing Remarks**

**ANNA WALKER & JAMES CARTER**

*Emerging Executives Committee Chair / Vice Chair*

2 pm

**FORUM ADJOURNS**

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