



ROBERT D. LONG, CECD

Director

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PROFILE

Robert Long is a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) with more than 25 years of experience in economic and community development in South Carolina and Georgia. Robert was recently awarded as one of North America's Top 50 Economic Developers of 2022 by Consultant Connect; one of only three economic developers recognized from South Carolina.

Robert began his career in economic development in January 1995 after graduating with a MS in Demography from Florida State University in December 1994. However, Mr. Long was born and raised in Aiken County, SC, where he graduated from Silver Bluff High School and then from USC Aiken with a BA in Sociology in May 1993.

Robert started his career with the Aiken/Edgefield Economic Development Partnership from 1995-2008, where he spent 13 years including the last seven as the Assistant Director. Mr. Long then worked for four years as the first Executive Director of the Darlington County Economic Development Partnership from 2008 until 2012.

Next, Mr. Long spent almost a decade in Metro Atlanta. He took a position as the Economic Development Director of Gwinnett County, GA, from 2012-2015 and then as the Vice President of Economic Development for the Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce from 2015-2020.

Robert was delighted to return to South Carolina as the Director of Chester County Economic Development in October 2020. He has been married for 20+ years to his wife, Tara, and they have two daughters: Zoe and Sophie. In his spare time, Robert enjoys traditional archery and sporting clays.

RECOGNITION

Awarded by Consultant Connect as one of North America's **Top 50 Economic Developers of 2022**.

EXPERIENCE

- Aiken/Edgefield Economic Development Partnership | Assistant Director | 1995-2008
- Darlington County Economic Development Partnership | Executive Director | 2008-2012
- Gwinnett County, GA, Economic Development Department | Director | 2012-2015
- Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce | Vice President of Economic Development | 2015-2020
- Chester County Economic Development | Director | 2020-Present

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of South Carolina Aiken
- Master of Science in Demography from Florida State University