



Creative Solutions FOR Thriving Communities

CENTRALINA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2014

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Concord Convention Center at Embassy Suites in Concord, NC

CCOG's first annual conference
for local government elected officials, staff and others
who contribute to building stronger communities.



GROWING JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

CONTROLLING COST OF GOVERNMENT

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

Meeting and Event Space



Breakout Rooms

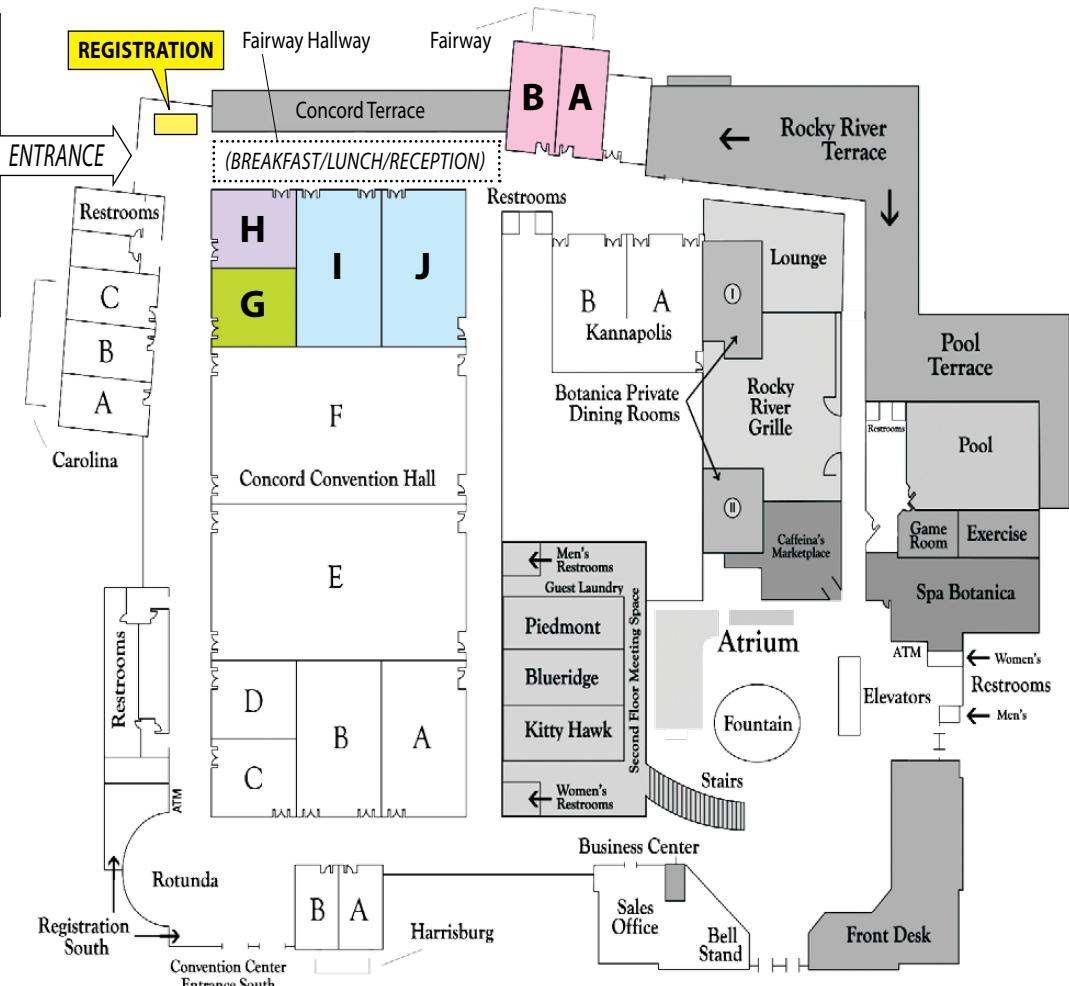
- Fairway A-B (combined)
- Concord G
- Concord H

Plenary Sessions

- Concord I-J (combined)

Sponsor Tables

- Fairway Hallway



Creative Solutions for Thriving Community Conference Continuing Education Credits

AICP Credits – We have applied for AICP continuing education credits and are awaiting approval. This conference will allow you to receive 6.5 credits in one day, at a local conference, without having traveling expenses. After the conference planners should visit the Certification Maintenance section of the American Planning Association's website (www.planning.org/cm) to claim their credits.

ICMA Credits – We have developed workshop sessions based on local government issues and challenges and the sessions include best practices and practical solutions that can be used towards a manager's voluntary credentialing program. Go to icma.org for additional information.



Agenda-At-a-Glance

7:30 - 8:15 AM	Registration and Networking Continental Breakfast			<u>FAIRWAY HALLWAY</u>	AICP CM Credits
8:15 - 9:15 AM	Welcome and Opening Keynote			<u>CONCORD I-J</u>	
	Building Thriving Communities in NC: What's Next? Anita R. Brown-Graham, Director, Institute for Emerging Issues				CM .75
9:15 - 9:30 AM	Transition Break				
9:30 - 10:45 AM	Matching Housing Stock with Future Community Needs <u>FAIRWAY A-B</u>	Open For Business: Streamlining Review and Permitting Processes <u>CONCORD G</u>	CONNECT Regional Framework 1: Aligning Plans for Better Results <u>CONCORD H</u>		CM 1.25
10:45 - 11:00 AM	Transition Break				
11:00 AM -12:15 PM	Managing Time and Risk with the "Balanced Public Engagement Process <u>FAIRWAY A-B</u>	Building Healthy Communities <u>CONCORD G</u>	Go Long – Regional Transit by 2050" <u>CONCORD H</u>		CM 1.25
12:15 - 12:30 PM	Transition Break				
12:30 - 1:30 PM	Lunch Keynote			<u>CONCORD I-J</u>	
	Growing Strong Communities Through Regional Collaboration Dr. Robert D. Atkinson, President, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation				CM .75
1:30 - 1:45 PM	Transition Break				
1:45 - 3:00 PM	Creating Innovative Places for the Next American Economy <u>FAIRWAY A-B</u>	Blueprint for Action: Growing the Economy and Quality of Life Through Lifelong Communities <u>CONCORD G</u>	CONNECT Regional Framework 2: Tools for Local Governments <u>CONCORD H</u>		CM 1.25
3:00 - 3:15 PM	Transition Break				
3:15 - 4:30 PM	Energy Management 101– Opportunities for Local Governments <u>FAIRWAY A-B</u>	Aligning the Stars: Setting up Your Local Workforce Ecosystem to Meet Local and Regional Industry Needs <u>CONCORD G</u>	Beyond Pay Check-to-Pay Check: Long-term Financial Strategies for Successful Communities <u>CONCORD H</u>		CM 1.25
4:30 - 5:30 PM	Networking Reception			<u>FAIRWAY HALLWAY</u>	Total CM 6.5*

*Upon approval, AICP members will be eligible for CM credits by attending this conference.



CENTRALINA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2014

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11
Embassy Suites in Concord, N.C.

Real Solutions for Your Community

Our conference will provide training, practical tools and resources to help you:

- Build a stronger community.
- Implement solutions to challenges faced by your community and identified by residents of the region.
- Grow jobs and the economy, control cost of government and improve quality of life in your community.

Inspiring, Practical Keynote Addresses

Building Thriving Communities in NC: What's Next?

Anita R. Brown-Graham

Director, Institute for Emerging Issues, North Carolina State University



Anita R. Brown-Graham joined the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) as director in January 2007. She worked at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill's Institute of Government for 13 years, training communities in strategic planning to revitalize their distressed rural communities. Her work inspired both rural and urban communities to work together for a better future for the state. Brown-Graham is a William C. Friday Fellow, American Marshall Fellow, and Eisenhower Fellow.

She previously served as law clerk to the Honorable William B. Shubb in the eastern district of California and as business litigation counsel in a Sacramento, California, law firm. Brown-Graham has provided significant training and written books and articles focused on developing the economic base of distressed communities. She also currently serves on the boards of several development organizations and foundations. Brown-Graham earned an undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and, after attending graduate school at LSU, she earned a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Growing Strong Communities Through Regional Collaboration

Dr. Robert D. Atkinson

President, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, Washington D.C.



Dr. Robert D. Atkinson is one of the country's foremost thinkers on innovation economics. With an extensive background in technology policy, he has conducted ground-breaking research projects on technology and innovation, is a valued adviser to state and national policy makers, and a popular speaker on innovation policy nationally and internationally.

He is the author of *Innovation Economics: The Race for Global Advantage* (Yale, 2012) and *The Past and Future of America's Economy: Long Waves of Innovation That Power Cycles of Growth* (Edward Elgar, 2005). Before coming to ITIF, Atkinson was Vice President of the Progressive Policy Institute and Director of PPI's Technology & New Economy Project.

He has testified before a number of committees in Congress and has appeared in various media outlets including CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, NPR, and NBC Nightly News. He received his Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1989.

Conference Breakout Sessions

Below is preliminary information currently available about the sessions.

The *Growing Jobs and the Economy*, *Controlling Cost of Government* and *Improving Quality of Life* colored bars shown with each breakout session will tell you which of these benefits your community can realize from each session.

We have applied for continuing education credits through the American Institute of Certified Planners. Upon approval, AICP members will be eligible for 6.5 Certification Maintenance (CM) credits by attending this conference.



9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Matching Housing Stock with Future Community Needs

A community's housing stock is often the result of outdated market trends, employer needs, and plans that may no longer match current community needs. Find out how to match housing in your community to future population and employment growth, local economic development strategies, and the needs of an aging population. See how communities can address housing barriers to provide the workforce housing suited to their community, incorporate infill housing and redevelopment strategies, and reuse vacant or derelict properties close to downtown to create desirable, walkable neighborhoods.

GROWING JOBS AND THE ECONOMY
CONTROLLING COST OF GOVERNMENT
IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

CM | 1.25 *

MODERATOR / SPEAKERS

- Moderator – Fulton Meachem, President & CEO, Charlotte Housing Authority
- Debi Lee, CCOG
- Joe Padilla, Executive Director, REBIC
- Miles Atkins, Mayor, Town of Mooresville

FAIRWAY A-B

9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Open For Business: Streamlining Review and Permitting Processes

Is your local government development office running at its highest efficiency? Is communication clear and consistent? Do you know what your customer really cares about? See how communities have used a continuous improvement (LEAN or Kaizen) process to streamline their development process, eliminate time and resource waste, and improve customer service.

GROWING JOBS AND THE ECONOMY
CONTROLLING COST OF GOVERNMENT
IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

CM | 1.25 *

MODERATOR / SPEAKERS

- Moderator – Jessica Hill, CCOG
- Erika Martin, Planning Director, Town of Troutman
- Mark F. Donham, Director of Economic Development, City of Albemarle

CONCORD G

9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. CONNECT Regional Framework 1: Aligning Plans for Better Results

Regions and communities across the country are increasingly experiencing the benefits and successes that come when their economic development, transportation, land use, housing, and other plans align. What are the techniques, strategies, and organizational approaches that promote successful plan alignment locally and regionally? Hear about the cross-disciplinary alignment already occurring in our region and how the CONNECT Our Future process has created and strengthened partnerships for success.

GROWING JOBS AND THE ECONOMY
CONTROLLING COST OF GOVERNMENT
IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

CM | 1.25 *

MODERATOR / SPEAKERS

- Moderator – Jim Prosser, CCOG
- Michael Johnson, Chairman, CCOG Board of Delegates
- Harriet Tregoning, Director, Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Economic Resilience
- Bill Thunberg, Executive Director, Lake Norman Transportation Commission

CONCORD H

**Upon approval, AICP members will be eligible for CM credits by attending this conference.*

11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Managing Time and Risk with the “Balanced Public Engagement Process”

We've all heard it before. Great local government programs and initiatives with elected official support run into a roadblock at final passage or implementation because of confusion, lack of public support or the development of opposition. What's needed is an effective and efficient public engagement process that helps elected officials manage time and risk, and move more quickly to and through project implementation. Learn about the proven, award-winning local government “Balanced Public Engagement Process,” and how it could help your community, best practices for ensuring a successful turnout and ways of engaging those who typically don't participate, including youth. This session will include interaction and a panel.

GROWING JOBS AND THE ECONOMY
CONTROLLING COST OF GOVERNMENT
IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

CM | 1.25 *

MODERATOR / SPEAKERS

- Moderator – Jim Prosser, CCOG
- Jill Schultz, President, JMS Communications & Research
- Nancy Davis, Director of Public Affairs, City of Statesville

FAIRWAY A-B

11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Building Healthy Communities

Your community's built environment impacts residents' ability to incorporate health into their daily lives, as well as their ability to remain in their home safely and independently as they age.

GROWING JOBS AND THE ECONOMY
CONTROLLING COST OF GOVERNMENT
IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

Hear how a focus on physical activity, transportation, Universal Design, and access to healthy foods provides cross-cutting interest and benefit to communities and residents of all ages. Find out what the evidence is telling us about these connections and how communities can put health at the center of their decisions.

CM | 1.25 *

MODERATOR / SPEAKERS

- Moderator – Michelle Nance, CCOG
- Ned Barrett, Trails Coordinator, Partners for Active Living
- Carolyn Cook, Owner, LiveSmart Design
- Katherine Hebert, MCRP, Founder, Creating Community Change Consulting

CONCORD G

11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Go Long—Regional Transit by 2050

CONNECT Our Future's extensive community-based engagement of over 7,200 residents throughout the region revealed a tremendous interest in transit expansion—whether light or commuter rail, bus rapid transit, or simply additional bus routes or expanded schedules. Why the interest? How can communities and the region pursue residents' interest in and need for transit? Hear how regional transit planning in Denver, Colo., led to one of the most successful systems in the country and join a great dialogue about our regional and community transit challenges and prospects.

GROWING JOBS AND THE ECONOMY
CONTROLLING COST OF GOVERNMENT
IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

CM | 1.25 *

MODERATOR / SPEAKERS

- Moderator – Bill Thunberg, Executive Director, Lake Norman Transportation Commission
- Marla Lien, General Counsel, Denver Regional Transit

CONCORD H

1:45 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Creating Innovative Places for the Next American Economy

Increasingly, city leaders are realizing the design of place is a key asset that can be leveraged for growth in their community as cities everywhere are entering a new era of unprecedented collaboration and competition. Innovative cities welcome and anticipate the social and technological shifts that have reshaped how people interact in the 21st Century, and will be in a better position to prosper in the new economy. A panel discussion will share how North Carolina communities are adapting to these shifts and provide current research on the link between planning for place and economic development.

GROWING JOBS AND THE ECONOMY
CONTROLLING COST OF GOVERNMENT
IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

CM | 1.25 *

MODERATOR / SPEAKERS

- Moderator – Mike Manis, CCOG
- Elizabeth (Liz) Rooks, Executive Vice President and COO, Research Triangle Foundation
- Kate Pearce, Senior Associate, Land Design, NCAPA Communications and Public Affairs Chair
- Liz Parham, Director, NC Main Street Program

FAIRWAY A-B

1:45 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Blueprint for Action: Growing the Economy and Quality of Life Through Lifelong Communities

The over 60 population in each of the 14-county CONNECT Our Future counties is growing faster than the population aged 18 and under. Older adults have distinctly different lifestyle needs than the population as a whole. Are our communities ready for this change? Retirees from outside the region bring "new" money to an area, which can drive retail, medical, and other service sectors. How can we meet their needs and potentially benefit economically from being a "retirement haven"? Learn about a local example as the Mayor of Mooresville's Round Table on Senior Friendly Community reports results of their recent survey on the economy, services, and the senior community.

GROWING JOBS AND THE ECONOMY
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IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

CM | 1.25 *

MODERATOR / SPEAKERS

- Moderator – Linda Miller, CCOG
- Anna Rice, Executive Director, Iredell Council on Aging
- Miles Atkins, Mayor, Town of Mooresville
- Pat Mason, Co-founder, Center for Carolina Living & CarolinaLiving.com

CONCORD G

1:45 p.m.-3:00 p.m. CONNECT Regional Framework 2: Tools for Local Governments

From land use planning to community housing and redevelopment to renewable energy, the CONNECT Our Future regional planning project has created a wealth of resources – based on what you've told us you need – to help local governments. Hear about these new tools and how they are already being used by local governments to improve quality of life and control the cost of government. How can your local government use these tools to measure return on public investment, grow the farm economy, align services with residents' priorities, or provide housing choice?

GROWING JOBS AND THE ECONOMY
CONTROLLING COST OF GOVERNMENT
IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

CM | 1.25 *

MODERATOR / SPEAKERS

- Moderator – Sushil Nepal, CCOG
- Richard "Dick" Black, Planning Director, Union County
- Jared Cates, Community Mobilizer, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
- Joseph Minicozzi, Principal, Urban3

CONCORD H

**Upon approval, AICP members will be eligible for CM credits by attending this conference.*

3:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Energy Management 101 – Opportunities for Local Governments

Energy costs are one of the largest, non-personnel expenses for local governments, and often there is no clear plan to address energy use. Many local governments have no single person whose primary responsibility involves tracking energy use, developing cost reduction programs, or utilizing technology to reduce energy needs for the jurisdiction's services and facilities. The good news is there are many ways that energy can be conserved, through policies, technology, and efficient internal systems, and combining these elements into an energy management plan can stabilize government energy costs. Find out what local governments in this region are doing to lower their costs.

CM | 1.25 *

GROWING JOBS AND THE ECONOMY
CONTROLLING COST OF GOVERNMENT
IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

MODERATOR / SPEAKERS

- Moderator – Jason Wager, CCOG
- Rich Deming, Senior Advisor, CALOR Energy
- Dan Ziehm, Assistant Director of Public Works, Gaston County
- Terry Albrecht, Director of the Waste Reduction Partners, Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources

FAIRWAY A-B

3:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Aligning the Stars: Setting up Your Local Workforce Ecosystem to Meet Local and Regional Industry Needs

The local workforce is the foundation of economic development. Learn about the key industry clusters identified for future growth in our region and the current trends in workforce preparation. Speakers from the Centralina Workforce Development Board will discuss the Jobs, Workforce, and Education Alignment Strategy unveiled in 2013 and how implementation has helped unite education institutions, workforce boards, and economic developers around target industries, including advanced manufacturing. The Board will showcase their latest initiative, Centralina Career Headlight, a new software tool to help students, career seekers, and career counselors better understand the demand for occupations in the region and make more informed education choices across the region's many training institutions.

CM | 1.25 *

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CONTROLLING COST OF GOVERNMENT
IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

MODERATOR / SPEAKERS

- David Hollars, CCOG
- Michael Manis, CCOG

CONCORD G

3:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Beyond Pay Check-to-Pay Check: Long-term Financial Strategies for Successful Communities

Most communities today are faced with too many needs and too little funding. Find out how the annual budgeting process can be used to set the strategic plan and organizational direction for local governments. This session will delve into the top subject areas related to local government financial management that every local government official should know. It will identify the most common financial dilemmas that municipalities and counties in our region face and how can they be avoided.

CM | 1.25 *

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MODERATOR / SPEAKERS

- Jim Prosser, CCOG
- Pam Dubois, Deputy Manager, Cabarrus County

CONCORD H

Panelists and Moderators



Terry Albrecht

Terry Albrecht is a Section Chief of the NC Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service. He also directs Waste Reduction Partners (WRP), a technical consulting group of the Land-of-Sky Regional Council which works in partnership with NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources. In his role he is responsible for overseeing the work of two WRP offices and a statewide team of 65 volunteer and staff engineers and scientists who provides environmental sustainability and utility cost-saving strategies to businesses and public institutions throughout North Carolina. He has over 20 years experience in environmental and industrial consulting, management, and regulatory experience.



Miles Atkins

Miles Atkins serves as the Mayor of the Town of Mooresville and also works as the Director of Corporate Affairs and Government Relations for Iredell Health System. In his role as Mayor, he serves on various elected boards and committees including: US Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, NC Metropolitan Mayors Coalition, Centralina Economic Development Commission and others. Originally from Tampa, Florida, Mr. Atkins began his career in sales and marketing and was recruited to Charlotte to work in the communications industry. He has since worked in key business development, sales and product marketing, and market development services.



Ned Barrett

Ned Barrett has been working in active transportation advocacy for eight years. As Trails Coordinator at Partners for Active Living (PAL), he is tasked with implementing a robust, community-wide trails plan that requires collaboration and coordination with various groups. He previously led a PAL initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Healthy Kids Healthy Communities program to address childhood obesity through community design, improving access to healthy food and places to play. With an eye toward community building, active transportation and the creative use of public and private space, he has the professional knowledge to guide communities through planning, designing and implementing of innovative transportation and recreation efforts.



Richard "Dick" Black

Richard "Dick" Black, AICP, is the Planning Director for Union County. He has successfully managed a variety of planning projects for more than 30 years on the city, county and regional levels in the Charlotte region. Prior to being Union County Planning Director, he made his mark at the Charlotte - Mecklenburg Planning Department, and Catawba's Regional Planning Council. His work has ranged from land use plans to development ordinances and his focus on the citizenry and the elected officials as his customers has contributed to his level of achievement throughout his career. He is a Six Sigma Green Belt and received his Master of City and Regional Planning at Clemson University.



Jared Cates

Jared Cates is a Community Mobilizer at the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association. He is a native of Chapel Hill and a graduate of the UNC School of Social Work, where he received his Master's degree. Jared has been working in the non-profit sector since his graduation from Appalachian State University in 2003. Jared is a home gardener, kombucha and beer brewer, bee keeper and has a passion for sustainable food systems. His current work at the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association keeps him engaged with new and existing food councils across North and South Carolina.



Carolyn Cook

Carolyn Cook is an interior designer specializing in the field of Universal Design, a design concept that helps all of us, regardless of age or ability, remain successfully in our homes for as long as we choose and for as long as possible. She is an advocate for Universal Design, a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist and an accredited LEED AP. She presents to schools, community groups and industry professionals on the topic of Universal Design and aging-in-place. She is active in the Davidson Committee on Aging, the Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee, the LGBT Aging Solutions Group and a member of the National Kitchen and Bath Association and the US Green Building Council.



Nancy Davis

Nancy Davis is the Public Affairs Director for the City of Statesville. As Public Affairs Director, she is responsible for media relations, citizen communications, community engagement projects and many special events. She also administers the city's webpage, social media outlets and government channel. She serves as the city's liaison with many community organizations and events and volunteers her own time with the Council on Aging, Downtown Statesville Development Corporation, Fifth Street Shelter Ministries and other key service agencies in the area. She is a graduate of UNCC with a degree in political science and has worked as a newspaper reporter, assignment editor and communications specialist in the Statesville area for 35 years.



Rich Deming

Rich Deming has been engaged in projects as the Energy Lead for CCOG since 2008. He has also assisted other local governments in tasks as diverse as energy efficiency audits, developing financial models for renewable energy, managing energy project RFP processes—from writing to vendor selection, and navigating the complexities of performance contracting. He also works in the private sector, focusing on the waste-to-energy (WTE) industry both domestically and internationally. He is the co-founder of several biofuel start-ups and serves as an advising shareholder and/or director for several biofuel and WTE companies. He is also very active in multiple energy organizations.



Mark F. Donham

Mark Donham is the Economic Development Director for the City of Albemarle. Mr. Donham's career has covered over 30 years in public service including over 18 years in economic development and 13 years in municipal management. Mr. Donham is a credentialed manager by ICMA and was a Certified Economic Developer by IEDC from 1989 to 2010. In his role as Economic Development Director he works with a team of committed community leaders and professionals to bring about long-term growth in Albemarle. This includes working with the City, County, and other community organizations to develop a corporate center, retail business, and the downtown.



Pam Dubois

Pam Dubois is Deputy County Manager for Cabarrus County. She began her career with Cabarrus as an accountant in 1988 before serving as Assistant Finance Director and Finance Director. Over the course of her 26 years with the County, she helped Cabarrus grow into a very stable financial institution. She oversaw the implementation of a five-year plan, and various debt issuances and refunding's for capital projects. In that time, Cabarrus proudly earned the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 16 consecutive years and the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 29 consecutive years.



Katherine Hebert

Katherine Hebert, MCRP, is the founder of Creating Community Change Consulting, a private consulting firm offering services in health impact assessments (HIA), healthy community design, policy analysis, program development, and stakeholder engagement. She is a subject matter expert in HIA and healthy community design having conducted HIAs on various topics including universal design, transportation, neighborhood design, food systems planning, and parks and recreational planning. She is the former coordinator of the Town of Davidson's Design for Life Program, an initiative designed to foster healthy community design through the use of health impact assessments (HIA), public participation, and collaborative efforts in Davidson, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg region, and North Carolina.



Jessica Hill

Jessica Hill is a Senior Planner of Sustainability at Centralina Council of Governments. She received a B.A. degree in Urban Studies from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, a Masters of City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and is a MBA candidate from Wake Forest University. She has diverse experiences in local government land use and community development planning, project management, and state and federal grant programs. She serves the Centralina COG region in the areas of Clean Transportation, Water Resources, Solid Waste and Recycling, and Local and Regional Planning. Jessica is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).



David Hollars

David Hollars is the Workforce Development Board Director for CCOG. In his role, he provides the expertise and resources to support the work of the Board partnering with economic development, education, and businesses creating innovative strategies to serve job seekers and employers and investing in the future of the community. His work with the Board affects economic development, workforce development, education, and quality of life. He works closely with Board's management team and policy makers throughout the region to help shape future workforce development plans and also to help maximize their contributions to the region. He is a native of North Carolina, a 35-year veteran of workforce development, and an active member of his community.



Michael Johnson

Michael Johnson serves as Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Statesville and is Board Chairman of Centralina COG. He has been active on a number of local government commissions and boards, including: Iredell County Board of Adjustment and Downtown Statesville Development Corporation. He is also the past chairman of the Lake Norman Regional Planning Organization Board. Mr. Johnson has the knowledge and passion for regional issues and works with the community leaders to assess regional needs and derive effective solutions. Mr. Johnson is also a principal of The Johnson Group, Inc. and Magnolia Homes, Inc.



Deborah "Debi" Lee

Debi Lee is the Assistant Director for Aging Programs at the Centralina Area Agency on Aging. She has been with Centralina for the past 20 years and has been an influential advocate for the rights of older and disabled adults in her role as Elder Rights Coordinator and Lead Ombudsman. Ms. Lee has a Masters in Gerontology and a B.A. in Sociology with a Social Work concentration. She also has several professional certifications including, Long Term Care Services and Supports Options Counseling, N.C. Department of Insurance Medicare Counseling and Evidence Based health promotion program leader training in A Matter of Balance.



Marla Lien

Marla Lien joined the Regional Transportation District in Denver, Colorado, as Associate General Counsel in 1990. She worked on the development of three light rail lines and also assisted in the acquisition of Denver Union Station. In 2005, she became General Counsel and has since been working primarily on development of the FasTracks program including property acquisition, railroad negotiations, Denver Union Station redevelopment, and the RTD Penta-P Project for the East and Gold Lines also known as "Eagle P-3." She has worked on major real estate development projects, railroad acquisitions, elections, legislation, project finance, and manages the legal and risk management divisions of RTD.



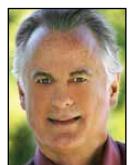
Mike Manis

Michael Manis is Director of Community and Economic Development for CCOG. He provides more than 36 years of experience in management and coordination on federal, state and local levels in a variety of municipal and private development arenas. As CED director, he facilitates support and access to multiple federal agencies and State of North Carolina funding opportunities, grants, and administrative resources for the regional units of government and economic agencies. Mr. Manis was accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) in 2006 as a Certified Economic Developer, CECD and is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the University of Oklahoma.



Erika Martin

Erika Martin is the Planning Director for the Town of Troutman. In this role, Ms. Martin constantly strives to engage elected officials, citizens, and students to make the community great. As a department of one she relies heavily on amazing volunteers and enthusiastic community leaders to assist with implementing local plans, programs, and events. She is dedicated to inclusionary, comprehensive planning approaches and is a strong advocate of the profession overall. She is most proud of the grants she has secured to stretch the local dollar and further community dreams, such as a community park and greenway extension for the Town of Troutman.



Pat Mason

Pat Mason is the Co-founder for the Center for Carolina Living & CarolinaLiving.com, the country's most recognized multi-state destination marketing firm. The firm is the result of an alliance between the private sector and state government to measure the economic impact of in-migration and to position the Carolinas to attract affluent visitors and newcomers of all ages. Pioneers in database and web marketing, his team produced the CarolinaLiving.com GUIDE. The Guide and web site generate approximately 35,000 visitor and relocation prospects for lead databanks used by Carolina organizations to target their invitation to families exploring for relocation, starting businesses, retiring and acquiring second homes.



Fulton Meachem

Fulton Meachem is President and CEO of the Charlotte Housing Authority and is responsible for the oversight and effective operation of one of the most progressive housing authorities in the nation. Mr. Meachem has over 20 years of experience in the affordable housing industry. He has extensive experience in developing and executing workforce housing, resident services, and housing operations. In addition, he is skilled in developing community partnerships and fostering strong relationships with Boards, staff and residents. Mr. Meachem serves on a number of boards and committees including the Centralina Council of Governments' Connect Our Future Consortium, Urban Land Institute (ULI) Steering Committee, and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Coalition on Housing.



Joseph Minicozzi

Joseph Minicozzi, AICP, is Principal of Urban3, an econometric consulting firm that emerged from Public Interest Projects. His multidisciplinary expertise with City Planning in the public and private sectors, as well as his ingenuity with real estate finance prompted the development of his award-winning analytical tools that have garnered national attention. He is a sought after lecturer on city planning issues and his work has been featured at the Congress for New Urbanism, the American Planning Association and others. He previously served as the Executive Director for the Asheville Downtown Association and New Projects Director for Public Interest Projects.



Michelle Nance

Michelle Nance, AICP, is the Planning Director for the Centralina Council of Governments. She directs the Council's work related to land use and transportation, healthy community initiatives, energy and the environment. Her work is focused on helping local governments address shared, long-term issues through collaboration and partnerships. She previously served as the City of Gastonia Development Services Director managing land use and subdivision planning, transportation, building inspections and housing. She also served as the development ombudsman for the City of Gastonia, involving the development community in city policy and ordinance changes that impacted growth.



Sushil Nepal

Sushil Nepal is CCOG's Project Manager currently overseeing the CONNECT Our Future project - a Regional Planning Initiative funded by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Planning Grant. He is the primary contact for day-to-day operations of CONNECT Our Future and also a Point of Contact (POC) for HUD. He has expertise in city/metropolitan/regional planning, project management, grants administration, and host of public engagement strategies.



Joe Padilla

Joe Padilla is the Executive Director of the Real Estate and Building Industry Coalition (REBIC), an industry trade association that promotes public policies encouraging sustainable economic growth and job creation in Charlotte. REBIC advocates for the interests of Realtors®, home builders, commercial developers and brokers at both the local and state levels, addressing issues as varied as Tax and Regulatory Reform, land use policy and construction permitting. Prior to joining REBIC in 2011, Mr. Padilla spent 15 years in Atlanta's real estate industry and has managed the acquisition and entitlement of raw land and residential lots for both a large national home builder and a regional land development company.



Liz Parham

Liz Parham, CMSM, serves as director of the NC Main Street Center and the Office of Urban Development in the North Carolina Department of Commerce. In this role she oversees the North Carolina Main Street program and the Small Town Main Street program, two downtown revitalization efforts focusing on the state's small and mid-sized communities. She also administers the Main Street Solutions Fund program, a grant and technical assistance program designed to provide direct support to small businesses. She has more than 28 years of experience in the field of downtown revitalization, having previously managed downtown revitalization programs in five cities prior to coming to work on the state level.



Kate Pearce

Kate Pearce, AICP, is a Senior Associate and Project Manager at LandDesign in Charlotte, North Carolina. She is responsible for the day-to-day management of a wide variety of public sector planning projects for the firm. Two of her recent projects received the 2014 Marvin Collins for Outstanding Planning Award. She also serves on the Planning for Prosperity leadership team and is former co-chair of the Great Places in North Carolina program. Ms. Pearce has a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master of Business Administration from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi.



Jim Prosser

Jim Prosser is the Executive Director of Centralina Council of Governments. Mr. Prosser has nearly 30 years of experience in city management, having served the communities of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Richfield, Minnesota; and Hazel Crest, Illinois. He is a Credentialed Member of International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) and serves on the ICMA committee for Sustainable Communities and the Community Leaders Workgroup for the Community and Regional Resiliency Institute (CARRI). Mr. Prosser has extensive experience in developing sustainable and affordable solutions to complex public policy issues. He also has a proven ability to successfully manage complex organizations, focusing organizational energies to achieve results.



Anna Rice

Anna Rice is the Executive Director for the Iredell Council on Aging. She is a native North Carolinian who was introduced to the challenges of the aging population during her final year at Salem College when she did a senior seminar in the Pursuit of Happiness, choosing to focus on older adults. She began her career in the aging network when she became an outreach worker for the Mecklenburg Council on Aging. She later joined Iredell Council on Aging where she was soon promoted to Executive Director and has remained in that capacity for 36 years.



Elizabeth (Liz) Rooks

Elizabeth H. Rooks is Executive Vice President and COO of the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina, manager and developer of The Research Triangle Park. As Executive Vice President, she is responsible for short and long range planning, infrastructure development and operational management of the Park. She has been with the Research Triangle Foundation since 1989. During her tenure, the Foundation has sold over 1,700 acres of land and developed over seven million square feet of occupied space. Prior to joining the Research Triangle Foundation, Ms. Rooks was an Assistant Director for the Durham City-County Planning Department and worked for nine years in the Chapel Hill Planning Department.



Jill Schultz

Jill Schultz is President of JMS Communications & Research, a firm she founded in 1993. Jill has been privileged to help communities, regional and state agencies effectively communicate with and successfully engage residents and stakeholders on complex public policy issues for more than 20 years. JMS provides strategic communications development, targeted marketing and public engagement strategies to a variety of public sector clients including Centralina Council of Governments. Jill has worked with clients on a broad range of municipal issues including community development, public facility projects, park planning, land use planning, transportation, reorganization of staff and services, regional planning, vision and branding, and crisis communications. She has previous experience as a legislative policy analyst and journalist.



Bill Thunberg

Bill Thunberg is Executive Director of the Lake Norman Regional Transportation Commission, a joint agency of the towns of Mooresville, Davidson, Cornelius and Huntersville which advocates for transportation solutions in the Lake Norman Region. As Mooresville's representative to the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC), he is a member of the Transit Funding Working Group and the Red Line Task Force. He also serves as Chairman of the Centralina Economic Development Commission. A former two-term Mayor of Mooresville, he is owner of Alexander Zachary Jewelers in downtown Mooresville and has been involved in various roles in the community for almost 20 years.



Harriet Tregoning

Harriet Tregoning is the director of HUD's Office of Economic Resilience and has extensive experience helping communities and regions build diverse, prosperous, and resilient economies. As the recent director of the District of Columbia's Office of Planning, she worked to make DC a walkable, bikeable, livable, globally competitive and sustainable city – re-writing the city's zoning code, planning the revitalization of the poorest parts of the District, and collaborating with her transportation colleagues to bring the nation's largest bike-sharing program to the nation's capital. Prior to this she was co-founder of the Governors' Institute on Community Design and served as both Maryland's Secretary of Planning and as the nation's first state-level Cabinet Secretary for Smart Growth.



Jason Wager

Jason Wager, AICP CEP, is Planning Program Supervisor for Sustainability at CCOG, where he has worked since 1996. He has diverse experiences working with communities on land use planning and sustainable growth issues that balance economic, environmental, and social opportunities and challenges. He has been involved in a variety of projects including Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant application and strategy plan preparation, group facilitation and consensus building, and water resources planning. Jason also serves as Coordinator for the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition (CCFC), representing the US DOE Clean Cities program in the Greater Charlotte Region.



Dan Ziehm

Dan Ziehm is the Assistant Director of Public Works for Gaston County. He supervises the day-to-day operations of the County's landfill, motor fleet operations (approximately 500 vehicles), facilities (approximately 2,000,000 square feet of existing facilities), and County print operations. He is currently managing the permitting, design, and installation of a ground-mounted solar panel system. Since graduating from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a BS in civil engineering, he has served as a design civil engineer, a project manager for a large general contractor specializing in higher education construction, an owner's representative for the State of North Carolina at UNC Charlotte as well as a private commercial real estate development firm.

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