



Improving the economic well-being of the residents & businesses of Fond du Lac County

FCEDC Staff Biography



Steve R. Jenkins, CEcD
President
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Credentials: Certified Economic Developer

Has been with FCEDC since: February 2012

Duties: As President of FCEDC, Steve provides direction in strategy; takes the lead on business attraction projects; oversees public relations, investor relations, community services, collaborative initiatives, organizational management and client consulting.

Awards and other involvement: Steve participates in several professional associations including the International Economic Development Council, International Asset Management Council, and the World Future Society.

Experience and education: Steve has 37 years of experience in economic development, including new business attraction, existing business retention and expansion programs, and entrepreneurial development. Most recently, he was senior vice president of economic development at the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce/GO Topeka. Steve has held leadership positions in Texas, Missouri, Colorado, Louisiana, and North Carolina in addition to serving as an economic development consultant. He has served on several boards including the Louisiana Partnership for Technology and Innovation, Economic Developer's Council of Colorado, Colorado Space Council, the Montrose (Colorado) Manufacturers Association, and the Capper Foundation in Topeka. Steve graduated from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville with a business degree and completed coursework for his master's degree in urban planning from the same institution.

Philosophy of Economic Development: "Economic development is no longer a static profession. It is very dynamic and status quo approaches will be problematic. The world and the economy are too dynamic to embrace status quo strategies. Strategies must be based on a clear overall vision and be adaptable and flexible to provide the ability to quickly seize opportunities and to adjust to changing conditions in the marketplace. Communities and regions must strive to be 'meaningfully unique' as a location and through their strategies if they expect real success. Economic development is a profession that requires collaboration, cooperation and partnerships, to include higher education and workforce providers. Today and moving forward, little of substance will be possible without strong, effective partnerships with strong emphasis on accomplishing substantive and meaningful results with maximum positive impact."

Personal: Steve is married to Lynn and has two grown children living in North Carolina. In his spare time, Steve enjoys writing, gardening, snowshoeing, hiking, fly-fishing, and traveling.