

## Melanie O'Connell Underwood, CEcD

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**Objective:** To assist companies in making the best growth and location decisions possible. Helping to answer questions on site, labor, infrastructure, training and incentives so both the company and the community will remain profitable while the companies are able to grow rapidly, and assimilate into the community with ease.

### **Education:**

- **Master of Arts in Geography**, East Carolina University
- **Economic Development Institute**, graduate, University of Oklahoma
- **Bachelor of Arts in Geography**, East Carolina University
- **Certified Economic Developer Certification**, International Economic Development Council

### **Accomplishments:**

- **Announced** over \$2 billion in new tax investment and over 6,000 new jobs while Executive Director of the Mooresville, NC Economic Development program.
- **Managed** 500-acre Mooresville Business Park, assisting to locate five new industries, eight land sales, and numerous expansions, including several businesses with multiple expansions.
- **Coordinated** community economic development **Strategic Plan** with AngelouEconomics Consulting of Austin, Texas.
- **Directed**, with NCDS Corporation of Atlanta, Georgia, community's first economic development private fundraising campaign, Partners in Progress, reaching our goal of \$ 2,000,000.
- **Established** new Economic Development Corporation, arranging for first budget, accounting, office space, board meetings, and legal organizational papers.

## Employment History:

- **Owner, Melanie O'Connell Underwood, Economic Development Consulting, LLC.** Private consulting company assisting with, project location decisions, infrastructure, lead generation, incentive negotiations, feasibility study, and Interim Executive Director Union County Partnership for Progress, North Carolina, (April 2012 to February 2013).
- **Executive Director of Economic Development**, Mooresville-South Iredell Economic Development Corporation, and **Director of Economic Development and Executive Vice President**, Mooresville-South Iredell Chamber of Commerce, Mooresville, North Carolina. (Economic Development separated from the Mooresville-South Iredell Chamber in 2007).
- **Director of Economic Development**, Chatham County, North Carolina.

## Honors:

- Four-time honoree by "*Site Selection Magazine*" as one of the National "Top Ten Economic Development Organizations"
- Mooresville was named as the "Nation's Number One Micropolitan Town" by "*Site Selection Magazine*" four times, based on the number of new announcements in a single year
- Selected by the "*Charlotte Business Journal*" as a "Top 25 Women in Business Achievement" award winner
- Selected by the Catawba Valley Girl Scouts Council for the inaugural "Iredell County Women of Distinction Award"
- Mooresville, North Carolina "Outstanding Citizen" Award
- North Carolina Economic Developers Association's "Practitioner of the Year" Award
- Governor's "Local Economic Developer of the Year" Award
- First female in North Carolina to receive national certification as a Certified Economic Developer

## Personal:

Active in:

- North Carolina Economic Developers Association
- International Economic Development Council
- Central United Methodist Church; Sunday School teacher and member of various committees, Missions team member to Honduras.

Married with two daughters, ages 12 and 17