

Leslie A. Scott

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**Current
Position**

Principal, Entrepreneurial Places LLC (October 2013 to present). Contracting related to place-based economic development and entrepreneurship. Skills include community assessment, project development and management, network building, collaborative strategy and facilitation, program design, communications, event planning, training and proposal development. See www.entrepreneurialplaces.com. Also a partner in relaunching Certified Entrepreneurial Community program, see www.creativecec.com.

**Professional
Employment
History**

Director, Institute for Rural Entrepreneurship, Raleigh (Feb. 2004 to Aug. 2013)

N.C. Rural Economic Development Center, Inc. Raised more than \$5 million in federal and foundation support. Designed and launched two statewide rural business startup coaching programs that have created over 400 jobs. Trained hundreds of rural leaders in entrepreneur ecosystem development. Built and convened a collaborative network of eighty public, education and nonprofit organizations that serve the spectrum of NC entrepreneurs in 100 counties; this alliance still meets quarterly after 12 years. Oversaw four cohorts of local grantees demonstrating local support for small business including incubation. Participated in innovation networks including on sustainability and the social enterprise sector.

Associate Director, Office of Economic Development, UNC's Kenan Institute for Private Enterprise (1998-2004).

Name then was Leslie Stewart. Faculty lead was Michael Luger. Key project management examples: national case studies of technology-based economic development, best practices in cluster implementation for Research Triangle Regional Partnership, strategic plan for AdvantageWest, a state-mandated study of N.C. Commerce and regional economic development partnerships, a statewide opportunity assessment for N.C. Indian economic development, a feasibility study for Kerr Tar regional revenue sharing project, and Greater Fayetteville Futures project that unified existing efforts. Built sound data-informed process and strategy with key local and regional leaders statewide. Engaged Carolina faculty in cross-campus collaboration. Supervised graduate students and an administrative assistant. Built filing systems, budgets, and contacts databases for this new office.

Research Policy Analyst, RTI International (1986-1998), social sciences division.

Learned survey and evaluation research methodology and federal technical and cost proposal development. Helped raise millions of dollars in federal program support. Managed federal evaluation task orders involving nationwide best practices in brownfields redevelopment, public risk communication near Superfund sites, and some small economic development projects in North Carolina. Conducted and analyzed dozens of focus groups. Analyzed data for prominent senior scientists in gerontology, demography, international development, housing and public health.

Research Analyst, Associates for International Research, Inc., Cambridge, MA (1983-1985). Developed and explained expatriate compensation tables based on cost of living data for multinational client firms working on five continents. Used business French to conduct surveys and interviews in three European cities.

Education Masters in Public Administration from UNC-Chapel Hill (1991). Electives in policy analysis, planning and economic development.
B.A. *cum laude* in economics from Colgate University (1983), Hamilton, NY. London study group in Fall 1981.

Other Training Certificate in Tiltology, character strengths-based leadership development (2014)
Trainer Certificate, Energizing Entrepreneurship for Rural America, Lincoln, NE (2004)
Certificate, Economic Development Institute, Norman, OK (1999)
Facilitation Skills Training, Roger Schwarz and others, 1990s
Shipley Associates Proposal Development, 1990s
Franklin-Covey Time Management, 1990s

Recent Publications *Economic Development Journal*, Fall 2012: "Supporting Rural Entrepreneurship: Lessons from North Carolina"

Board Service N.C. Indian Economic Development Initiative (2007-)
Kerr Tar Regional Economic Development Corp. (2007-)
RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship (2008-2013)
N.C. Economic Developers Association (2001-2004)

Professional References Patrick Woodie, Vice President, N.C. Rural Center
Dr. Deborah Markley, Managing Director, Center for Rural Entrepreneurship
Leslie Boney, Vice President of Engagement, University of North Carolina system
Tony Hayes, Executive Director, N.C. Indian Economic Development Initiative
Ron Fish, Director of Agribusiness Marketing, N.C. Department of Agriculture
Anita Brown-Graham, Executive Director, Institute for Emerging Issues, NCSU
Kathy Elliott, Entrepreneurship Instructor, High Point University
Contact information available upon request