

Annual Leadership Conference 2021, presented by [TowneBank](#)

Day 1

Monday, Nov. 8

10 a.m. **Registration**

10:30 a.m. **Opening Remarks & Session 1: Regional Economic Development – A Team Sport**

This panel will focus on exploring the collaborative mindset behind regional economic development. You will hear examples of successful collaboration, learn how regional assets are positioned, and see how projects are worked on jointly between regional partners. Panelists will also discuss what comes next for our region after a historic year of company announcements and expansions.

- Adrienne Cole, President and CEO, Raleigh Chamber (moderator)
- Michael Haley, Executive Director, Wake County Economic Development
- Ryan Regan, Vice President of Economic Development, Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce
- Melissa Smith, Vice President, Business Recruitment & Development, Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

11:30 a.m. **Lunch & Networking**

1 p.m. **Session 2: Innovation & Entrepreneurship**

This session will explore our startup ecosystem and you will hear our panel discuss funding, how we can support our startups and entrepreneurs, and the vision for our startup community.

- Derrick Minor, Associate Director, Technology, Vaco Raleigh, LLC
- William McGuire, Founder & Head of Disruption, Incolo
- Clark Rinehart, Interim Executive Director, Innovate Raleigh
- Anita Watkins, Director, Rex Strategic Innovations, Rex Health Ventures/UNC REX Health
- Jason Widen, Founding Partner, Raleigh Founded (moderator)

1:45 p.m. **Networking Break**

2 p.m. **Lighting Talk: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Conversation**

- Danya Perry, Director of Equitable Economic Development, Wake County Economic Development

2:15 p.m. **Session 3: Talent & Workforce Development – The NEXT Normal**

The Triangle is known for its world class workforce but how do we maintain those

standards in never-before-seen circumstances? Navigating the great resignation, hybrid work, and a pandemic that seems like it will never end, our panel will discuss the impact of these things and talk about what our next normal looks like.

- Ashley Cagle, Assistant Executive Director, Wake County Economic Development (moderator)
- Shelley Read Curran, Assistant Town Manager, Town of Cary
- Amanda Hutchinson, PHR, Talent Management, S&ME
- Dr. Scott Ralls, President, Wake Technical Community College
- Tom White, Director of Economic Development, NC State University

3 p.m. **Networking Break**

3:30 p.m. **Session 4: Leadership Discussion**

The closing discussion gives you a chance to collaborate with your peers and discuss some of the most pressing questions we face as leaders.

Facilitators:

- Adrienne Cole, President and CEO, Raleigh Chamber
- Kevin Howell, Vice Chancellor, External Affairs, Partnerships & Economic Development, NC State University and Board Chair, Raleigh Chamber

4:15 p.m. **Closing Remarks**

5 p.m. **Reception**

6:30 p.m. **Reception Ends/Dinner (on your own)**

Day 2

Tuesday, Nov. 9

Breakfast on your own

9 a.m. **Opening Remarks & Session 1: Public Policy**

Speakers share an inside look at our political landscape and discuss upcoming elections. The Raleigh Chamber does not endorse parties or candidates. We partner with our elected leaders and advocate for the best interest of our business community.

- Becki Gray, Senior Vice President, John Locke Foundation
- Rob Schofield, Director, NC Policy Watch

10 a.m. **Networking Break**

10:15 a.m. **Lighting Talk: Regional Transit**

- Joe Milazzo, Executive Director, Regional Transportation Alliance

10:30 a.m. **Session 2: Housing and Affordability**

This session examines current public policy initiatives and how priorities such as housing affordability impact our market.

- Lee Branscome, Vice President Corporate Services, Allen Tate Companies
- Asa Fleming, Allen Tate Realtors (moderator)
- Yvette Holmes, Chief Executive Officer, Southeast Raleigh Promise
- Paul Kane, Executive Vice President/CEO, Home Builders Association of Raleigh-Wake County
- Yolanda Winstead, President and CEO, DHIC

11:15 a.m. **Closing Remarks/Conference Ends**