



Mission Statement

Wilmington Business Development (WBD)

“Promote. Retain. Recruit.”

WBD’s mission is to promote a diversified regional economy through the retention and growth of existing employers and the recruitment of responsible business investment.

Strategic Objectives

WBD works to advance its mission for the regional economy via three principal program activities:

◆ **Promote:** WBD will actively engage in ally, investor and partnership development, outreach and education that effectively promote and improve the region, its economic assets, business interests and quality-of-life.

Priorities

- *Ally, Investor and Partnership Development* – In order to promote the region in the most effective and efficient way, WBD will forge constructive relationships with allies, investors and partners inside and outside the region, including economic development organizations, educational providers, governmental and quasi-governmental agencies, chambers of commerce, commercial real estate professionals and site selection consultants.
- *Outreach and Education* – WBD will focus communications, media engagement and relationship-building activities on audiences and stakeholders in the region to inform and educate the general public on the importance of a competitive business climate and a growing, diversified regional economy.



◆ **Retain:** WBD will endeavor to support the existing businesses of Greater Wilmington and the jobs they represent.

Priorities

- *Feedback and Intelligence Gathering* – WBD will seek input from existing businesses about their strategic business needs and how the organization and region can facilitate their ongoing success.
- *Location Service Delivery* – WBD will provide confidential, high-quality project management assistance to existing businesses undertaking expansion or consolidation plans.
- *Resource Development and Coordination* – WBD will seek to develop and coordinate resources needed by existing businesses in the region in order to meet their needs and retain them in the region.

◆ **Recruit:** WBD will aggressively deploy outreach tools to showcase Greater Wilmington as a destination for high-quality economic investors.

Priorities

- *Market Intelligence* – WBD will perform or obtain credible research and economic analyses upon which to base its global marketing strategies, outreach tools and recruitment programs.
- *Lead Generation and Client Development* – WBD staff will collaborate with its members, partners and allies to gather qualified leads and establish client contact in target industries.
- *Project Management and Technical Assistance* – WBD will assist clients and consultants and encourage them to select Greater Wilmington as an expansion, relocation or start-up destination.
- *Involvement of Public Partners* – WBD will engage its public partners in the region, including municipalities, universities, community colleges and school systems to further economic development objectives.



The Value of Investing in Wilmington Business Development Programs and Strategies

Wilmington Business Development works to diversify and grow Greater Wilmington's economy by bringing quality jobs and companies to the region. Wilmington Business Development members, investors and partners reap the benefits of these efforts in the following ways:

- A broader array of professional opportunities in the region supports the efforts of existing companies to recruit and retain world-class talent. Top-quality executives, specialists and managers seek meaningful employment options for “trailing spouses” when weighing job offers that require relocation.
- Successful economic development efforts boost local tax-base through the addition of new companies and residents, thus broadening the foundation upon which critical local government services such as public safety and education can be funded.
- In promoting the region to corporate decision-makers around the globe, Wilmington Business Development highlights the success of companies with Greater Wilmington, which spurs residual branding and marketing benefits for them.
- Leadership in local economic development efforts demonstrates a company's commitment to the surrounding community, a positive indicator that employees, customers and investors use to assess the company's overall quality and gauge the confidence a company has in its own future.
- Investing in Wilmington Business Development enables the organization to continue serving as a convenient portal for direct interaction between top corporate officials and local governments, colleges and universities, secondary education, health institutions and community development entities.
- Wilmington Business Development activities and events afford corporate leaders valuable opportunities to be informed about key trends and business development opportunities, thus elevating the efficiency and competitiveness of the region's business community.
- Visible support by companies of results-driven organizations such as Wilmington Business Development encourages employees to be similarly engaged in programs that improve the region's quality of life.



Membership Makes a Difference

How Your Investment Impacts the Greater Wilmington Business Community

- Supports business marketing and recruitment efforts for New Hanover and Pender counties. By successfully recruiting manufacturers, distributors, corporate headquarter operations, and research and development companies, Greater Wilmington will realize more jobs, an increase in capital investment, and an expanded tax base.
- Demonstrates commitment to retaining and enhancing existing business & industry base.
- Contributes to the alliance of major businesses & industries.
- Provides the means for delivering client services such as assembling tax credit and industrial revenue bond packages and delivering customized client presentations.

Benefits of Membership

- Quarterly newsletter that is distributed to membership.
- Free link from our website to your company's website.
- Free space in newsletter for promoting members' services and products
- Annual membership meeting each year featuring guest speakers and programs. Business & Industrial forums in conjunction with local & regional business leaders golf tournament.
- Free membership directory.
- Access to latest economic and demographic data including information on cost of living, construction rates, commercial real estate trends, industrial building and site specifications, and international trade.

The current expansion rate of business and industry in Southeastern North Carolina is the envy of many other areas of the country. It is no secret that our climate, resources, people, and their general attitude toward progress are contributing immeasurably to this expansion effort.

Wilmington Business Development also performs a vital role in this process as a major catalyst in promoting the location, development, and expansion of business and industry in the Greater Wilmington area. One of our primary objectives is to attract the type of business that will produce a positive effect on our local economy, while retaining environmental compatibility and quality of life for our people.

The support and assistance of area businesses such as yours is needed to continue our efforts in attracting quality industry and business to our area. We invite you to become a member of Wilmington Business Development.



History

Since October 18, 1956, when the first meeting of Wilmington Business Development was held, economic development has remained the organization's top priority. Our successes are attributable to our membership, and to the cooperation and support of local elected officials and business leaders throughout Wilmington and the surrounding region.

Spearheaded by Al Jones, the President of Tidewater Power Company (which was later bought by Carolina Power and Light), the organization realized that it must capitalize on its strengths – availability of electricity and transportation, a skilled labor force, and an outstanding quality of life.

Two major events occurred in 1991 which impacted our future, the completion of Interstate 40 to Wilmington, connecting Wilmington to the rest of the country's superhighway system, and the State Port deepened the ocean channel by three feet.

Education has become increasingly important in economic development efforts as higher levels of skill and specialization are required by companies. The University of North Carolina at Wilmington and Cape Fear Community College are strong educational institutions offering training required by the companies of the future.

To keep you apprised of our activities, the organization produces a quarterly newsletter.

We are confident that through hard work and making use of our many resources, our area will continue to grow and prosper to the benefit of all.



Important Points and Facts

Wilmington Business Development is a unique joint venture of public-private partnership which leverages the resources of New Hanover and Pender Counties, and the City of Wilmington, with those of our membership and allows our area to have a first class, professional economic development program.

According to the *U.S. Chamber of Commerce* 100 new manufacturing jobs will create an additional 64 jobs to service their needs. These include the following:

45 wholesale, retail and entertainment jobs

7 transportation jobs

3 finance, insurance and real estate jobs

3 service jobs

3 construction jobs

3 public administration jobs

According to *Economic Policy Institute* economists Dean Baker and Thea Lee, for every 100 manufacturing jobs there are 422 people indirectly employed. This compares with 147 secondary jobs created by every 100 in the personal and business services sector or 94 secondary jobs for every 100 jobs created in the retail sector.

The *National Center for Manufacturing Sciences* maintains that 100 manufacturing jobs create over \$2 million in personal income, \$1.6 million in retail sales, seven new retail establishments, 64 non-manufacturing jobs, and a population increase of 202 people.



A Sampling of our Clients

Alcami
Amazon
Acme Smoked Fish of NC
Archer Daniels Midland
Bennett Brothers Yachts
Blue Arrow Logistics
Cardinal Foods
Castle Branch, Inc.
Chloride Systems
Coastal Beverage
Corning, Inc.
Coverbind
Edgeworks (G-Code)
Elementis Chromium
Empire Distributors
FedEx Freight
Fenner Drives
Fine Fixtures
Fortron Industries
GE Aerospace
GE Vernova Hitachi

HMF Therma Tru
H.S.M. Machine Works, Inc.
IKA-Works
Interroll Corporation
INVISTA
LL Building Products
Louisiana Pacific Corp.
Live Oak Bank
MegaCorp
MoJo Musical Supply
National Gypsum
nCino
Phoenix Technologies
PortCity Logistics
PPD
Queensboro Shirt
RealtyLink
Southern States
Verizon Wireless Customer
Service Center
W. R. Rayson Company, Inc.
Wilmington Machinery, Inc.
Windsor Fiberglass



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