



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.

In furthering economic development, the organization became a Certified Development Company in 1981 to handle SBA 504 loans directed toward fixed asset financing for small businesses.

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.