

Mike Eades

J. Michael Eades, CeCD, a native of Washington County, Virginia, received a B.A. Degree from Emory & Henry College (VA) with a double major in Geography and Geology. He later pursued postgraduate studies at the University of South Carolina in Economic Geography. Eades is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma and entered his full-time economic development work in 1976 with the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce in South Carolina. He then served as Associate Manager of Economic Development with South Carolina Electric & Gas Company from 1980 to 1985. From 1985 to 1988, Eades was the Associate Director of the South Carolina Department of Commerce and was responsible for the agency's domestic marketing and client base.

In 1988, Eades returned to the Greater Columbia Chamber as President/CEO of the Central Carolina Economic Development Alliance, a four-county regional partnership serving the Columbia Metro area. From 1993 to 1998, he managed the Sales and Economic Development Department for the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, the nation's largest public power joint action agency, headquartered in Atlanta. Eades then served as the President/CEO of the Florence County (SC) Economic Development Partnership until 2004. Eades then ventured to Virginia as the Executive Director of the Industrial Development Authority of Halifax County from 2005 to 2008.

Eades is the past President and Honorary Life Member of the Southern Economic Development Council and a long term member of Rotary International. He achieved designation as a Certified Economic Developer© from the International Economic Development Council in 1981.