



For Immediate Release:

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**Julie Pruett Receives Designation of Certified Economic Developer
from the International Economic Development Council**

HICKORY, NC - Julie Pruett, Director of Business Recruitment for the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation, recently earned the designation of Certified Economic Developer (CEcD), a national recognition that denotes a mastery of principal skills in economic development, professional attainment and a commitment to personal and professional growth. The CEcD exam was administered by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) on May 31 and June 1 in Raleigh, NC at the Raleigh Marriott City Center.

Ms. Pruett joined the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation in 2004. She has spearheaded such projects as Convergys, Turbotec Products, Baker Furniture and Flowers Foods. She has also been instrumental in developing the construction of spec buildings such as the Adevco customer service speculative building in Hickory and the Niagara Ventures speculative manufacturing building in Claremont.

Ms. Pruett currently serves on the United Way Board of Directors and has also served on the Lenoir Rhyne University Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Hickory Metro Higher Education Center Programming Committee. Ms. Pruett holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Lenoir-Rhyne University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Appalachian State University. She is also a graduate of the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute.

The CEcD designation recognizes qualified and dedicated practitioners in the economic development field and sets the standard of excellence within the profession. Candidates must pass a rigorous and comprehensive three-part, two-day examination, which tests a practitioner's knowledge, proficiency and judgment in the key areas of economic development, including business retention and expansion, marketing, finance, workforce development, community development, real estate, strategic planning, and management.

As highly competent economic development practitioners, Certified Economic Developers work with public officials, business leaders and community members to create leadership to build upon and maximize the economic development sector. Excellence in the economic development profession improves the well being, quality of life and opportunities for individuals, businesses and communities. There are currently more than 1,200 CEcDs in the United States.

The International Economic Development Council is the premiere organization for the economic development profession. Serving over 4,600 members, IEDC is the world's largest professional membership organization providing a diversity of economic development services, including research and advisory services, conferences, professional development and legislative tracking. IEDC provides economic developers with the information and tools they need to build local economies and strives to draw upon and increase the collective expertise and influence of its diverse membership. IEDC also manages the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) which brings together public and private sector professionals involved with the redevelopment of closed military bases and privatization of military infrastructure.

Visit IEDC's website at www.iedconline.org to learn more about membership, upcoming events and how IEDC can serve you.

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