

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MODELS: NEW WAYS TO *DO* ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

This paper will focus on various models for regional economic development. In today's globalised world, business and companies are not concerned with political borders, particularly at the local government level. At the same time, by working together, local governments can achieve more than they can independently. "The fist is stronger than five fingers".

The United States and Europe have already embraced the development of multi-jurisdictional, cross border, regional economic development organisations to drive growth at the regional level and provide significant value to all the residents across the jurisdictions. This paper will discuss the merits of regionalism for economic development and cite numerous examples of organisations (and their structures, funding mechanisms, key activities, etc) as case studies. Example organisations will include but not be limited to:

- Charlotte Regional Partnership (Charlotte NC USA): One of the oldest regional economic development organisations in the USA, this public/private partnership drives economic development across 16 counties (similar to Councils) in two states.
- Cornerstone Regional Development Partnership (Jacksonville FL USA): This public/private partnership oversees economic development across a region of seven local government and includes participation from the major education and transportation authorities.
- Advance West Midlands: One of the largest Regional Development Authorities (RDA) in the UK charged with the economic development of the West Midlands region.
- Regio Basiliensis (Basel Switzerland): A very unique organisation that crosses not only local government boundaries but three national borders to champion cooperation and economic development in the broader Basel region, which includes parts of France and Germany.

Biography

Michael Campbell is a Senior Consultant with the AECgroup and has considerable experience in economic development and investment attraction, which he gained in the United States, Europe and Australia. As a Senior Consultant, Michael works with state and local government to encourage business and employment growth as well as with corporate clients, advising them on their location strategies for expansion or relocation projects.

Throughout his career, Michael has worked on hundreds of corporate expansion projects in a wide range of industries and across numerous sectors, including advanced manufacturing, distribution, headquarters, and back office operations. As an economic development practitioner, Michael has successfully located 54 companies representing a capital expenditure of \$425 million and almost 4000 new jobs.

Michael has held previous economic development positions with Invest Queensland (Brisbane, QLD) and Charlotte Regional Partnership (Charlotte, NC-USA).

Michael is a member of Economic Development Australia.

Michael has Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of North Carolina (USA), an International MBA from the Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina (USA) and an MBA from the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration (Austria).