



John D. Chaffee

John Chaffee is the President/CEO of North Carolina's Eastern Region (NCER), a 13-county regional economic development organization based in Kinston, NC.

Mr. Chaffee earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economic Geography with a specialization in industrial location and regional economics. He began his economic development career in eastern North Carolina, migrated to hills of Henderson, NC in 1980, and was selected as executive director of the Pitt County Economic Development Commission in 1983. In January 2006, he transitioned from that post to become director of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center's Eastern Regional Office

with the mission to facilitate capacity building for life sciences in eastern North Carolina. He was named CEO of NCER, in April, 2009. He counts among his successes the establishment of the first corporate park in eastern NC, development of robust partnerships to promote diversified job creation, strategies to recruit international, especially Japanese companies, and collaborative efforts to encourage the emergence of a life science R&D-based cluster.

Mr. Chaffee's accolades include being named to the list of "Outstanding Young Men in America" by the Jaycees and "Outstanding Young Leader in Geo-Economics" by Site Selection Handbook. He has served as a member of the North Carolina Economic Development Board and as a board member for the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. He currently serves on the State Advisory Board of the North Carolina Small Business and Technology Development Center and the NCSU Industrial Extension Service Advisory Board. His articles on economic development have been published in professional journals and the German newspaper, *Handlesblatt*.