

**Minutes of the PCEDC Meeting**  
**Person County Economic Development Board Room**  
**303 S. Morgan St, Roxboro, NC 27573**  
**January 28, 2020**

**Voting Board Members Present:**

Phillip Allen-Chairman

Mr. Derrick Sims-Secretary

Mr. Donald Long

Mr. Ernie Wood

Mr. Danny Talbert

Mr. Dale Reynolds-Vice Chairman

The Honorable Marilyn Newell

The Honorable Ray Jeffers

Mr. Kenneth Perry

**Non-Voting Board Members Present:**

Ms. Heidi York, County Manager

Dr. Pamela Senegal, PCC President

Dr. Claudia Berryhill, Agricultural Representative

Mr. Brooks Lockhart, City Manager

**Non-Voting Board Members Absent:**

Dr. Rodney Peterson, PCS Superintendent

**ED Staff Present:**

Mrs. Sherry Wilborn, ED Director

Mrs. Brandy Lynch, ED Senior

Administrative Support

(Minutes)

**Others Present:**

The Honorable Gordon Powell\*-County Commissioner

The Honorable David Newell\*-County Commissioner

The Honorable Jimmy Clayton\*-County Commissioner

Mrs. Lynda Clayton

Mr. Dan Craig, CPA

Mr. Joe Magno, Joe Magno, LLC\*

Mrs. Elizabeth Bradsher, East Coast Training & Innovation Center\*

Mr. George Willoughby

Mr. Terry Nealy

Dr. Tori Bradsher

Mr. Bo Freeman

Mr. Donald Bradsher\*

\*Arrival/Departure Noted

**EDC Welcome and Invocation:**

1. At 4:00 p.m., Acting-Chairman Allen called the meeting to order.
2. Derrick Sims gave the invocation.

*(David Newell arrived at 4:03p.m.)*

**Officer Nominations and Vote:**

3. Mr. Allen opens the floor for nominations for the Chairman position. Nomination of Phillip Allen, for the position of Chairman, was made by Derrick Sims.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed for Phillip Allen as Chairman

Motion: Derrick Sims

Second: Dale Reynolds

The Honorable Marilyn Newell nominates Dale Reynolds for the position of Vice Chairman.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed for Dale Reynolds as Vice Chairman.

Motion: The Honorable Marilyn Newell

Second: Derrick Sims

Derrick Sims read a statement in reference to the Economic Development Commission (EDC) Bylaws. Sims requests the board to revisit the Bylaws in reference to the Executive Members of the EDC Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary. It is his opinion, the Executive Board of the EDC should only be held by private citizens. Another option would be for the EDC to change the Executive Board nominations until January after the Chairman of the Person County Commissioners is put in place and committee assignments are complete. Sims believes this practice would eliminate politics playing a heavy role in the Executive Board of the EDC.

Chairman Allen suggests the Bylaws be placed on the February EDC agenda for further discussion and suggestions.

**Approval of the EDC Minutes from the November 26, 2019 meeting:**

4. Chairman Allen requested a motion to approve the EDC minutes from the November 26, 2019 meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to approve the minutes from the November 26, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Dale Reynolds

Second: Derrick Sims

**Joe Magno Presentation:**

5. Chairman Allen turns the floor over to Joe Magno for his report to the board. Magno provided a consolidated report to the board, that will be included in the minutes, while informing the board this would be his last presentation under his current contract. Magno's contract with Person County will terminate at the end of January 2020. During the presentation, Magno noted he would provide contact information to Mrs. Wilborn of individuals engaged during his contract with Person County.

Magno expresses his belief that the county is in a good position within the industry to bring more interest into the county as well as educational opportunities such as Semiworks. It is his plan to continue to work for the county on a pro bono basis.

Magno took questions after his presentation. Wilborn began by noting one of the key reasons for Magno's engagement with the county was (per contract) to set up a Regional Non-Profit. It was due to Magno's background and experience in New York that this assignment was placed upon him. Thru 2019, an attorney had been engaged to start the process of setting up a regional nonprofit in October, then Chairman Gordon Powell requested Magno to suggest board members. The list of possible board members that was provided to the board, only had Virginia candidates. In November, Magno was asked to come before the board for an update on the nonprofit. At the November meeting Wilborn provided background of the nonprofit. At such meeting, recorded by ED staff, in attendance was Elizabeth Bradsher. Also documented by ED staff was the departure of Mrs. Bradsher at the same time as Mr. Magno. Wilborn stated her reason for noting this was to point out that both individuals heard the same update. Within the next two days, Bradsher reached out to the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and the Director, citing the possibility of overlap and redundancy between the EDC and Bradsher's organization, yet Magno still did not disclose awareness of the other effort. Information was then received from Mike Russo, Dan Craig, and materials from Mrs. Bradsher documenting Magno's assistance. Wilborn and the board would like to know why Magno was under contract with the county with

the goals to set up a nonprofit and was working to set up a nonprofit with the exact same goal? Also, why Magno did not inform the board of such actions?

Magno's reply, "that was none of my business." Magno recalls informing the EDC board of the need to increase the retainage of the law firm to set up the nonprofit and the position of Semi's unwillingness to work with any government agency. Magno states he is a consultant for the county and cannot make any negotiations on behalf of the county. Magno states he has no knowledge of how the nonprofit started and was not involved with the nonprofit or Semi. Magno contends he does not see what the issues are.

Wilborn explains the issue is Magno's knowledge of another nonprofit being formed. On a call between Wilborn and Mike Russo on December 5, 2019 Russo stated that, Magno provided updates on the nonprofit that David Newell had moved forward, set up and appointed a regional director. Russo was under the belief that the regional nonprofit being worked on by the board had since moved in another direction. Magno states he informed Russo there were nonprofits being discussed and that the call stated earlier was between Wilborn and Russo.

One of Magno's contracted objectives was to set up a Regional Nonprofit and it is his belief he fulfilled that obligation by helping with the retainage of the attorney. Magno also notes his fulfillment of objections by setting up a strategic plan and promoting relationships for the county.

Magno questions Wilborn on the "point" she was making. Wilborn explains, in November Magno was part of the meeting and at no time did he provide the county knowledge of another nonprofit that he was assisting in organizing. Magno answered; he is a paid consultant and he works for no other organization. He only answered questions of Mike Russo and the organization that Elizabeth Bradsher was setting up was none of his business. Magno concludes his ineffectiveness of getting the nonprofit started was due to Wilborn not communicating with the attorney. Wilborn then informed Magno of her contact with the attorney. Magno continues to state he assisted the county in finding an attorney to assist in the formation of a nonprofit. Wilborn rebuts the need for a paid consultant's assistance in a relationship with a law firm, while reminding Magno he was engaged because of his background.

Kenneth Perry concludes that Magno may have been operating within the means of his contract, however his knowledge of a competing nonprofit without informing the board of such, may be viewed as more of an ethical issue. An issue that could result in trust issues the board may have with Mr. Magno. Magno has issue with the word "compete". Magno explains that there is nothing for Bradsher's organization to compete with in light of the nonprofit not having been formed. Perry admits it is his belief that Magno can help the county, however if the board no longer has trust, there is an issue. Magno states that is why his contract with the county is ending.

Magno concludes with the fact he has worked with the county on a paid and pro bono basis. He contends he has done what he was asked to do by bringing contacts to the county, moving the Megasite project along, and beginning a line of communication with Semi, as well as other industries. All work will from hereafter will be done on a voluntary basis.

**Liz Bradsher Presentation:**

6. Chairman Allen provides background on Mrs. Bradsher prior to her presentation.

Mrs. Bradsher provides the board with her bio and East Coast Training and Innovation Center's (ECTIC) mission statement which will be included in the minutes. Bradsher explains her nonprofit has been set up to provide cutting edge manufacturing training and promote economic development. Her organization has bylaws, three board members, and at the present time she is working out of her home. Bradsher believes her nonprofit and Person County need to work together. Bradsher then opens the floor for questions.

Derrick Sims ask who or what was the factors in the organization's inception. Bradsher response is Commissioner David Newell retained her resume in light of employment opportunities that she had applied for within county government and presented the opportunity to her. After some research in the industrial manufacturing marketplace, she decided to accept the Directors position. Sims inquired if Bradsher viewed that her organization was in competition with the EDC. She replied no, she did not and did not want it to be. She believed her organization would help promote Person County in the most positive way.

York inquired about the board members on the ECTIC. Bradsher acknowledged there are three seats filled, with openings for two more. The seated board members include Darrell McDaniel with N Star, Dr. Betty Adams, Southern Virginia Higher Educational Center, and Sandeep Dave', AM Technical Solutions.

Dr. Berryhill explored the relationship between ECTIC and Piedmont Community College (PCC). Bradsher explains there is no relationship at this time, and that relationship would need to be established. She explained the type of training that ECTIC would do, would be different enhancement of what occurs at PCC. ECTIC would not be a semester or quarterly training, the training would be on specific machines.

York questions Bradsher on the creation date of the ECTIC. Bradsher could not provide an exact date, however she advised it was created about five to six weeks prior and noted it was registered with the Secretary of State. York informs there is not a nonprofit registered in the ECTIC name. Bradsher advises she would investigate, and they did have an Internal Revenue Service federal identification number. York explains the number the ECTIC is using is associated

with another nonprofit. Bradsher believes that the number she is using is a new number and should not be associated with another nonprofit.

Mr. Craig provides some insight on the 501(c)(3) that Ms. York is referring to, and it was created in 2003 as a 501(c)(3). That purpose that lasted three to four years and diminished. Subsequently the nonprofit became a shell corporation and kept 501(c)(3) status. Bradsher explains she was unaware of the history of the number in question. Craig continues to say the 501(c)(3) is still active at this time as a shell corporation. Bradsher continues to maintain she had no knowledge the number was not a new number and the name would be corrected. York insists her intention is to make sure everyone has the accurate information.

Bradsher discloses there will be multiple funding sources anticipated for the ECTIC including, grant funding, and manufacturers within the industry. Wilborn points out that would be the same funding sources the Advance Technology and Training center would be in competition for. ECTIC plans are to request a memorandum of understanding with Semi. At this time, Bradsher is working from her home. However, the ECTIC has office space in a building on Providence Road, that Bradsher states is owned by David Newell.

Bradsher's future plans include working with the county on social media activity and inviting the county to meetings with manufacturers that may be interested in Person County.

Dale Reynolds requests more information on the name change of the nonprofit. Dan Craig informed the board that he was in fact working with the Secretary of State's office on the name change of the nonprofit. This was done at David Newell's request.

Dr. Senegal, at the request of Brooks Lockhart, explained how PCC partnered with companies for their specific training needs. The Customized Industry Training Program was a program, enabling PCC to bring in funding and work with the other community colleges in North Carolina. This program has been in place for years. Dr. Senegal also explains that PCC was in the process of attaining a Memorandum of Understanding with Semi as well as beginning to develop partnerships for the Advanced Technology and Training Center. The mechatronics curriculum was submitted to Semi, and at this time there has been no response. Person County assisted with the funding for a feasibility study on the Advanced Technology and Training Center. Dr. Senegal will give a full report on the feasibility study at the February meeting.

Joe Magno is asked about the time frame on Semi's partnership announcement for this region as a pilot. Now that ECTIC has been formed. Magno did not give a date or an estimation. Wilborn provided information to the board about contact she had with Dr. Robert Geer, who is administering the National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for SUNY Poly. Dr. Geer stated there was no indication that the NSF grant was going anywhere but SUNY Poly. Wilborn also provided evidence from Mike Russo that reiterated there would be no funding coming from Semi. The

benefit of being a pilot region would be plugging into infrastructure that grant funds form. Magno provided no response.

David Newell requests to make comments about his affiliation with the ECTIC. Within the past six months Mr. Newell traveled to Semicon and met leaders within the semiconductor industry. Newell has been involved with the Person County Megasite since the inception and believes in the site's marketability. For all the qualities the Megasite offers, (i.e. water, location) there is no workforce. Newell met with Darrell McDaniel and Sandeep Dave'. Newell engaged McDaniel about the possibility of a relationship to enhance appeal of the Megasite. The vision would be to train workers before the company was in place.

Mr. Newell went onto investigate the process of setting up a 501(c)(3). His first meeting was with Dr. Senegal and she informed Mr. Newell that PCC did not have the space or instructors at that time. Newell stated McDaniel had offered his services in training local instructors. Newell received information that Semi would not commit with any organization with ties to the community college or government entity. He informed Senegal the nonprofit needed to be in place by the end of 2019, even if he had to start the nonprofit himself. Newell states, "If I offended somebody, I certainly apologize. I do not apologize for trying to make the right moves."

Dr. Senegal speaks to the due diligence PCC did after the initial meeting with Newell. PCC reached out to contacts that were provided by Joe Magno and researched the need for that specified training in the area. At the conclusion, there was not a need for training on that type of equipment in the region. Therefore, it seemed more plausible to partner with SEMI on a curriculum already being used at PCC.

Newell met with Dan Craig to assist in the creation of a nonprofit. Craig advised Newell there was a nonprofit, he already had, not being used that he could use for the ECTIC. Newell states he consulted with the University of North Carolina School of Government and attorney Ronnie King about a possibility of a conflict of interest in light of Newell's position on the Person County Commissioners. Newell reports both Ronnie King and University of North Carolina School of Government stated Newell's involvement was not a problem, since ECTIC was a nonprofit. In reference to the building that ECTIC reports office space in, Newell declares the building is no longer owned by him.

Newell's hopes for the future of ECTIC is partnering with entities such as the Department of Defense, to train service members who are transitioning out of the military. Eventually the training program could get into the middle schools to train residents, in order to retain the Person County workforce.

Wilborn appreciates the conversation that has taken place in the meeting today and makes known her dedication to the EDC and Person County. Noting her frustration in the time she has spent on setting up a nonprofit at the direction of the board. Wilborn has many other projects that needs her attention including the new waterline and the Corps permits for the Megasite. Her belief is the amount of time she lost working with attorneys, researching and trying to update everyone could have been saved if only there had been communication.

Chairman Allen expresses his appreciation to Mr. Newell and what he is doing for the county but reiterates the need for constant communication.

Newell requests the board help Mrs. Bradsher and noted how lucky the county is to have someone with her background and initiative. His hope is to have Wilborn and Bradsher working "hand and hand."

**Staff Update:**

7. Chairman Allen turns the floor over to Sherry Wilborn for the staff update. Due to the time Wilborn will update the board on some items by email. Wilborn does submit the need for a subcommittee to be formed in light of an industry grant introduced by Dr. Berryhill. The subcommittee would consist of, EDC Director, Chairman of the EDC, Agricultural Representative, Commissioner Representative for EDC, PCC President, Person County Manager, and the Person County Cooperative Extension Agent.

Chairman Allen requested a motion to approve the formation of a subcommittee.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to approve the formation of a subcommittee.

Motion: Dale Reynolds

Second: Derrick Sims

Wilborn presented the board with an advertising video that is being played at Palace Point and throughout the Person County Schools. The contract the EDC has with the company allows for one video update a year. After a review, it is the consensus of the board not to make any changes at this time, except for the new EDC logo.

**Ex Officio Update:**

8. Heidi York informed the board, that any unused appropriations that the county commissioners gave the EDC would be rolled into an Economic Catalyst fund that has a balance now of \$1.7 million.

Also, the commissioners budget retreat is coming up on February 4, 2020. The commissioners will be presented with a debt model to assist in upcoming large expenditures, the information

provided in the debt model will also be an asset to the EDC. The hanger project at the Person County Airport is moving along and there are no issues with the water and sewer. Ms. York shared she had received the Capital Improvement request from Economic Development with a cost of \$6.1 million. Wilborn also shared this request with the commissioners and it was well received.

Commissioner Jeffers shared the Partnership of Children has hired a new Director and revealed some alarming facts about children in the area. The Partnership would like to work with Economic Development in areas such as childcare and child welfare.

Dr. Senegal plans to share the results of the Advanced Technology Center Feasibility study at the February meeting.

Brooks Lockhart provided an update on the outcome of the City of Roxboro Strategic Planning Session. The wastewater treatment plant renovations are over halfway complete with an estimated completion date of August 2020. The Western Interceptor that was discussed at a previous EDC meeting is the plan the city has chosen to go forward with. Person County's water and sewer fund will be contributing capital to the Western Interceptor Project.

**President Report:**

9. Chairman Allen offers no report.

Wood requests an update on the Corps permit. Wilborn advises things are waiting on her and some information from the City of Roxboro. She repeated her frustration in the time she has been working on other matters.

**Next Meeting:**

10. The next meeting date was announced as February 25, 2020 at 4 p.m. at the Person County Economic Development Office Board Room 303 S. Morgan St. Roxboro, NC 27573.

**Adjournment:**

1. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Motion: Derrick Sims

Second: Donald Long

EDC Minutes for January 28, 2020

2-25-20

**Date Approved**



**Secretary**

## Consultant’s Consolidated Report Prepared for EDC Meeting 01/28/20

Prepared by Joe Magno, LLC

### Mega Site Support

- Met with Congressmen Walker, Riggleman and staff in DC to discuss Mega Site and the microelectronics cluster growth focused around the Person County Mega Site. Mr. Russo and Mr. Newell were also in attendance. As a result, both Congressmen are in the process of arranging meetings with the leadership of the Virginia Tobacco Regional Revitalization Commission and Golden Leaf Foundation and promoting the site within their respective delegations and committees.
- Discussions continue with Semi Works staff regarding Community College curricula certification which has already been initiated in other hub regions. Russo and staff are actively promoting the Mega Site and Region in their discussions with industry internationally.
- Continued discussions with Doug Grose (SUNY Poly) regarding possible manufacturing facility opportunities and arranging for research collaborations with NC State University, Duke University, and UNC Chapel Hill to be held Q1 2020.
- Held additional meetings and discussions with Cree regarding expansion of NC manufacturing facilities planned over next four years to meet production requirements.
- Conversations with large industrial contractors and industrial suppliers continue – Provided Mega Site overviews to Whiting Turner, Skanska, JE Dunn, Exyte, Protec, and Duke Energy representatives focused on constructing microelectronics facilities.
- Interfaced with Timmons Engineering regarding Mega Site infrastructure and possible opportunities.
- Initiated conversations in DC with DOD and DHS suppliers considering sites for manufacturing facilities.

### Related Activities

- Regional Partnerships
  - Continued discussions with IALR and SVHEC regarding partnerships with Person County and impact of Mega Site on regional economic growth.
- Semi Works
  - Weinman and Russo are planning to visit region in February to finalize curricula certification with the Community College System.
  - They have informed Cree of regional efforts and are coordinating with Cree facility in NY.
- Other promotional activities
  - My Future NC – met with new leadership. Follow up meeting in February.
  - Golden Leaf and VA Tobacco Commission – facilitated by Congressional staff and will be scheduled when appropriate.
  - RTNN, NNCI, Community Colleges – continued discussions.
  - First NC – introductions made for Real Robotics launch when appropriate.

## **Final Synopsis of Project**

The following is a list of some of the individuals and organizations that have been engaged in conversations on behalf of Person County to discuss and build momentum regarding the Mega Site:

### **Microelectronics Industry Providers and Influencers**

Cree – manufacturer of wide bandgap semiconductors  
Project Support Services – provides engineering and site selection services to the industry  
SEMI.org – the primary international advocate for the industry  
Duke Energy – primary utility for the Person County Mega Site  
NStar Global – a global service provider to major manufacturers of microelectronics  
AMTS – a global service provider to major manufacturers of microelectronics  
Exyte – a global construction company servicing major microelectronics manufacturers  
JE Dunn - a global construction company servicing major microelectronics manufacturers  
Whiting Turner - a global construction company servicing major microelectronics manufacturers  
Skanska - a global construction company servicing major microelectronics manufacturers  
Timmons – a national geo-engineering firm  
Protec - provides engineering and site selection services to the industry  
Accenture – an international consultancy that assists in site selection services for the industry  
NHanced Semiconductor – a growing local microelectronics fabrication facility  
Plug Power – a large manufacturer of semiconductor-based energy products  
WES – a global provider of energy related products and services to mission critical industries  
ABI – a global provider of site selection and engineering services to the industry  
Phononic – a global provider of semiconductor-based cooling equipment  
Qorvo – a global provider of RF based semiconductors  
Lee Associates – Nationwide commercial/industrial real estate and site selection firm

### **Training and Educational Providers**

Piedmont Community College  
Alamance Community College  
Danville Community College  
Southside Community College  
SAS Institute  
SVHEC  
IALR  
My Future NC  
Community College System Office  
SUNY Poly  
Red Hat (Training)  
Oracle (Training)  
Real Robotics

**Government and Government Related Support Organizations Contacted and Informed**

NC Biotechnology Center  
Office of Senator Berger  
Governor’s Office  
NC Commerce  
EDPNC  
US Congressmen Walker and Riggleman  
USDA  
RTNN (Research Triangle Nanotech Network)  
NNCI (National Nanotech Coordinating Infrastructure)  
Defense Alliance of North Carolina  
DOD/DHS and suppliers

**Appendix to the Final Report**

**2014 through 2018**

The Consultant’s initial introduction to the Person County Mega Site in 2014 was a result of conversations with John Geib, Duke Energy Economic Development Director, and James Ryan, Dean of the Joint School for Nanoscience and Nanoengineering in Greensboro. At the time Person County’s Director of Economic Development, Stuart Gilbert, was responding to an RFP for a large microelectronics manufacturing facility under the moniker of “Project Trace”. Given Dr. Ryan’s and Mr. Magno’s extensive experience in the microelectronics industry and economic development, Duke Energy executives believed that they might be helpful in responding to the RFP and as a result, both Dr. Ryan and Mr. Magno participated in regular meetings and conversations with Mr. Geib who introduced them to Mr. Gilbert who was the Person County Director of Economic Development at the time.

Although Person County was not successful in landing Project Trace, Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Geib asked for the advice and assistance of Dr. Ryan and Mr. Magno in developing a plan to lure a large semiconductor manufacturing facility to the Region, driven by the fact that both Ryan and Magno believed that the Person County’s Mega Site was an ideal location for a microelectronics manufacturing facility.

Over the next few months Dr. Ryan, Mr. Magno, Mr. Geib, and Mr. Solomon of Timmons Engineering, met with Mr. Gilbert and other interested parties, including state representatives, to discuss how to better position the Person County Mega Site as a viable location for a semiconductor or other advanced manufacturing plant. In 2015 it was suggested that a visit to the Albany Region in NY to view the Global Foundry Fab 8 and SUNY Poly and thus provide insights regarding the economic impacts of large semiconductor clusters on a region’s economy and infrastructure. In August of 2015 Mr. Geib and Mr. Jones, another Duke Energy executive, accompanied Mr. Magno to Albany, NY where they were taken on facility tours and met with government and education officials and industry leaders.

From 2015 to 2018 the Consultant continued to advise Mr. Gilbert and facilitated introductions to other industry executives that could offer guidance and assistance in marketing the Person County Mega Site.

Concurrently, Person County continued to develop the site by securing appropriate permits and state certifications.

In 2015 Duke Energy at the recommendation of Mr. Magno, engaged Dick Sheehy, a microelectronics site selection consultant, to visit North Carolina and the Person County Mega Site. Duke Energy subsidized the visit which included the completion of a report on the feasibility of the site for a microelectronics and semiconductor manufacturing facility which was provided to Person County upon completion. Upon completing the visit Sheehy stated that, in his experience, the site was one of the more ideal sites for the location of a microelectronics manufacturing facility in the US.

Mr. Magno continued to act as an unpaid consultant to the County by providing advisement and introductions through the resignation of Mr. Gilbert, the Person County Director of Economic Development, and the retirement of Dr. Ryan. After Mr. Gilbert's resignation, County leaders continued discussions with Mr. Magno and initiated an executive search for a new Director of Economic Development resulting in the appointment of Ms. Sherry Wilborn as Interim and then Director.

## **2018 to Present**

In the summer of 2018 Mr. Magno recommended that County leaders, including educators, visit NY's Tech Valley to better understand the requirements and impacts of large semiconductor clusters on a region's economy and infrastructure. In September of 2018 Ms. Wilborn, Mr. Newell, Betty Adams (SVHEC Director), Dr. Senegal, Dr. Peterson, and Mr. Magno travelled to NY for a multi-day visit to the Region arranged by Magno. During the visit the group toured facilities and met with regional leaders, educators and industry executives. Following the visit Mr. Magno was engaged by the County to act as an economic development consultant. His responsibilities under the Contract included:

- Assisting the staff and appropriate community leadership in the development of an appropriate strategic plan with related materials for distribution and presentation to targeted constituencies including the Community, Government and Industry.
- Provide appropriate strategic introductions to organizations and individuals engaged in the advanced manufacturing industries to familiarize them with the business advantages of locating in the Region and on the Person County Mega Site.
- Assist in the creation of a Regional Economic Development not-for-profit entity missioned to serve as a primary point of contact for businesses and to provide additional leadership and funding opportunities for the promotion and sustenance of the region's economic growth.
- Work with the Commission and community leaders to create a Regional Training Center focused on the development of a skilled and ready-to-work advanced manufacturing workforce and provide on-going training and educational services to regional employers and their employees.

To date, along with providing documentation and advisement, Mr. Magno has completed introductions and has engaged in conversations with numerous organizations and individuals engaged in the advanced manufacturing industry, advised in the creation of a Regional Economic Development organization focused on preparing an appropriate workforce as required by the industry, and worked with Community, State and Federal leaders in an effort to promote both Person County and the Mega Site.

During his engagement Mr. Magno reported his activities on a regular basis with monthly written activity reports that were submitted to both the County Manager and Economic Development Director.

In July of 2019 Mr. Magno accompanied Ms. Wilborn and Mr. Newell to San Francisco to attend the Annual Semicon Conference, the largest annual gathering of international microelectronics industry executives with over 4,000 attendees. While at Semicon Mr. Magno met with and introduced Person County attendees to many of his industry contacts including Mr. Michael Russo, VP of SEMI.org.

These and other activities have resulted in the development of a relationship with SEMI.org, the leading international advocate for the microelectronics industry the global industry organization that represents over 2300 microelectronics companies and suppliers. In early 2019, in response to industry-wide concerns over the lack of qualified workers to meet the needs of the industry, and projections of continued growth of the industry in the US, SEMI announced the SEMI Works program. Mr. Magno encouraged Mr. Russo to visit the area and during the visit Mr. Russo met with County and regional government and education leaders. This visit has led SEMI to name the Region surrounding the Mega Site as one of three National SEMI Works Pilot Hubs, joining regional hubs in New York, Washington State and Oregon.

### **Present Situation**

Currently, SEMI is working with regional community colleges to certify curricula that meets SEMI industry standards. This designation as a SEMI Works Regional Hub has prompted the attention of industry and state officials along with regional congressional representatives resulting in preliminary conversations with microelectronic and semiconductor related companies demonstrating continued interest and investigation of the region for potential plant locations.

**Elizabeth Torpey Bradsher**  
**976 Estate Road**  
**Semora, NC 27343**  
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**703-609-0642**

Bio:

Elizabeth (Liz) Bradsher has experience in both the public and private sectors. She recently served as the Director of Operations for a large specialty practice and provided expertise on marketing, demographics, progressive health care dental technology initiatives, human resources, employee compensation and worked to expand professional relationships within the marketplace. She has also served as a Program Director for a nonprofit, providing leadership for grant development and programs. As a Senior Benefits Consultant for a Fortune 500 Company she concentrated on the development, marketing, implementation and presentation of employee health care programs for over 250,000 employees through-out the United States.

In addition to a strong business profile Ms. Bradsher served as a leader in Fairfax County Virginia on issues related to education and economic development. She served as an elected representative on the Fairfax County School Board representing 169,000 district constituents. In this capacity she oversaw a \$2.3 billion operations budget and the delivery of education for the Nation's 11th largest school district. During her tenure on the board she successfully passed motions by having the ability to show a sense of commonality in her motions avoiding "party line" politics and consistently gained a majority of support from her fellow Board members.

Ms. Bradsher believes in the benefits of public private partnerships to assist in responding to a locale's economic need. She led the first such successful educational partnership in VA to develop and build a multi-million-dollar public educational facility while assisting with the development of business and residential growth in the southern portion of Fairfax County. Her efforts resulted in a savings of \$23 million to the county for which she received public recognition and was the recipient of several awards for her service to the community and county.

Currently Ms. Bradsher recently relocated to North Carolina. She and her husband reside on Hyco Lake, just outside of Roxboro where her husband is from and family resides. Although all new to her, she is working hard on making North Carolina her home despite being a Big East basketball fan and a graduate of Villanova University.

*The East Coast Training Innovation Center (ECTIC)  
50 Providence Road  
Roxboro, NC 27573*

**Mission Statement:**

To provide economic growth and development to the greater Piedmont region while working to provide professional partnerships with important stakeholders to deliver technical training and development.

**State Labor Concerns:**

**In North Carolina:** In a recent state economic meeting the biggest agreed impact on the local economy per economists and business executives is talent. Chris Chung, Chief Executive officer with the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina said "Talent is trumping everything. Here in North Carolina, we're at about 3.8 percent [unemployment]. In an extremely tight labor market, companies like Advance Auto Parts and Red Hat, they are in a bloodbath trying to go after talent because right now it's an employee's market. If you're an employee with marketable skills, you can have your pick of the litter, pretty much, in terms of where you want to work."

**In Virginia:** According to the 2019 State of The Commonwealth Report unemployment rates in major metropolitan areas are approaching 2%. "The real challenge now for sustaining economic growth in the short-term is the availability of qualified labor," said Robert McNab, a professor of economics and the Director of the Dragas Center for Economic Analysis and Policy at Old Dominion. "Employers are telling us they are struggling to find the right employee for the right job. That is why we continue to argue that Virginia needs to invest in its workforce and infrastructure and reform its tax system to foster economic growth," he said. The report suggests offering tax incentives for investments in business plants and equipment, including repealing Virginia's machinery and tools tax, and finding ways to increase the labor force participation rate in Virginia.

**Why the ECTIC?**

Rural counties have been negatively impacted by changes in agricultural production and the loss of manufacturing jobs. Many of these locales are realizing a need to reinvigorate their economies and provide economic stimulus to enhance population growth and provide a resurgence of county wealth and interest. In the same vein the current business and political environment indicates the U.S. has a severe shortage in technical workers due to a lack of technical and vocational training. ECTIC has been developed to respond to the needs of the high tech and manufacturing marketplace while also assisting to support economic growth in these rural areas. In doing so it will be vital for ECTIC to partner with specialized high-tech manufacturing companies, government agencies, and state educational institutions to achieve measurable goals in the delivery of technical training and economic development.

### Vision Statement:

Operating and managing a state-of-the-art training center in Person County NC or elsewhere in the Piedmont region that will provide a specialized technical training environment for corporate and government partners while enhancing possibilities for regional economic growth.

### Short Term Goals:

- Office development
- Continue to work and develop avenues of funding for ECTIC growth, initiatives, and sustainability
- Continue to explore and develop important partnerships with educational institutions, corporate executives and government leaders
- Develop a Phase 1 Plan to include a location for training for the ECTIC with a corporate construction partner and industry leader
- Develop a 5-year long term ECTIC strategic plan by 12/2020
- Select five ECTIC Board Members who have interest in our mission and can assist with the success of ECTIC
- Organize and work with partners to establish related ECTIC Committees to further its mission
- ~~Develop ECTIC membership categories for workforce development collaboration~~
- Continue to work with Consultant Joe Magno
- ~~Collaborate with key economic and education advocates in the Piedmont Region to further the mission of the ECTIC~~

