



Link-Up

**Financing, Support Services and Grants
for Small Business Development**

Speakers Biographies

1300 Baxter Street,
Suite 450
P.O. Box 35008
Charlotte, NC 28235
704-372-2416

Dale Harrold
Regional Director
Self-Help Credit Union

Regional Director, Self-Help, since 2003. Responsible for leading Self-Help's activities in the Charlotte region and for managing the delivery of Self-Help SBA 504 and commercial programs to the greater Piedmont Region of North Carolina.

Self-employed small business consultant for eight years.

Commercial banker for 22 years with major regional banks, in positions including Regional/County/City Executive and others.

Hold MBA and BSBA degrees from Western Carolina University. Am also a graduate of ABA's Stonier Graduate School of Banking and BMA School of Bank Marketing.
Native of Winston-Salem, NC.

Susan Rather
Finance Officer
NC Department of Commerce

Finance Officer, One NC Program, Commerce Finance Center, NC Department of Commerce,
srather@nccommerce.com

Susan earned her B.B.A. degree in Finance from Baylor University in Waco Texas. Prior to working at the Department of Commerce in 2006, she was in the banking industry.

Vickie Miller
NC Department of Commerce
Community Assistance Division

Vickie Miller has worked in community economic development for 15 years and is currently the Assistant Director for the NC Department of Commerce/Division of Community Assistance responsible for Block Grant Programs.

She has an interest in and knowledge of community economic development which stems from her education and professional experience. She received BA and Masters degrees in Education from UNC-Chapel Hill. She has worked as a Community Development Specialist and Section Chief with the NC Department of Commerce, as an Executive Director of CJH Educational Grant Services, Inc, and as the Senior Planner with the City of Durham Housing and Community Development Department. She is the past Co-Chair and present Board member of the North Carolina IDA and Asset Building Collaborative and serves as Co-Chair of the Training and Professional Development Subcommittee of the Council of State Community Development Agencies.



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Eileen Joyce
Lead Business Development Specialist
US Small Business Administration

Eileen Joyce has 20 years of experience with the U. S. Small Business Administration. She has served in several capacities including media relations, congressional relations, event planning and small business counseling. Currently she heads up the SBA's marketing and outreach efforts for North Carolina.

Prior to joining SBA, she worked for Procter and Gamble in Field Advertising. She has an MBA from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and a Finance degree from Auburn University. She currently lives in Cornelius with her husband and son.

Vail Carter
Business Services Coordinator
Centralina Council of Governments

Vail is currently employed as Business Services Coordinator for the Centralina Workforce Development Board. His prior work experience includes other positions in workforce development, non-profit development and banking. He has a degree in Business Administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he was inducted into their Alumni Hall of Fame in 1994. As Business Services Coordinator, Vail is in constant contact with employers in seven counties and collaborates with others to gather workforce intelligence and improve workforce delivery. For the last year he has also served on the Governor's Charlotte Regional Economic and Workforce Recovery team.

Bion Schulken
Assistant Director of Strategic &
Organization Development Services
Small Business Technology Development
Center

Bion Schulken is the Assistant Director of Strategic & Organization Development Services (S&OD) with the University of North Carolina System's Small Business & Technology Development Center (SBTDC). In this role, he assists SBTDC's clients statewide with application of strategic and quality management processes to help them improve business results. Bion is also responsible for strategic services product development and for support of SBTDC counselors in delivering strategic services.

Bion has over 20 years of experience in business and industry with both Fortune 500 and small businesses. Bion's broad manufacturing experience includes roles in product development, process development, product launch and commercialization, information technology, quality systems, strategic planning, cost management, and operations. His small business experience includes owning/operating technology-based small businesses focused on machine control technologies for the OEM and replacement/upgrade markets.