



Contact: Keely Yates, kyates@capconsc.com
803-929-0305

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SCEDA Awards the 2011 Distinguished Service Award to Ralph U. Thomas

The South Carolina Economic Developers' Association (SCEDA) held its 46th Annual Conference May 4-6, 2011, at the Marriott Grande Dunes Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Ralph U. Thomas, president of the South Carolina Power Team. SCEDA's Distinguished Service Award recognizes exemplary efforts in the field of professional economic and community development in the State of South Carolina. Mr. Thomas is a past president of SCEDA (1999-2000), past president of the Tennessee Industrial Development Council, and a past board member of the Southern Economic Development Council and vice chair of the International Economic Development Council.

For more than twenty years, Mr. Thomas has been a mainstay in South Carolina's economic development landscape. His steady, strong leadership, calm demeanor and quiet diplomacy have been at the forefront and behind the scenes with major projects, minor prospects, economic development incentives, forging of alliances and mediating conflict.

Mr. Thomas was also recognized for his leadership of the South Carolina Power Team, representing the electric cooperatives and Santee Cooper in their industry recruitment. The Power Team has moved the state's economic development—particularly for rural counties—steadily forward. Their marketing efforts promote our state's most rural communities and through their efforts spec buildings, industrial park improvements, community websites and labor availability studies have been funded.

About SCEDA

The South Carolina Economic Developers Association exists to enhance the professional development of its membership and to advocate economic development to benefit the citizens of South Carolina. SCEDA's strives to 1) enhance the reputation and credibility of and position the organization as the economic development authority in South Carolina through effective internal and external communication, 2) provide ongoing educational opportunities that enhance the professional and personal development of SCEDA members, and 3) actively involve SCEDA in the influencing of critical economic development policy leading to sustainable statewide prosperity.