



Executive Perspective

What an exciting time to be involved in Charleston's economic development efforts! This three-county region is now ranked among the top U.S. markets for job growth, for income growth and for business growth. We're regularly listed among the top North American travel destinations by *Condé Nast Traveler*. And we've become a go-to location for young, highly skilled professionals.

When you consider that, just 15 years ago, this region faced a near devastating economic blow with the shuttering of the Charleston Naval Base and Shipyard, our economic transformation seems truly amazing. We've gone from having a sluggish, two-engine economy to developing a robust, multi-dimensional economy that is gaining worldwide recognition for its diversity, business strength and job creation.

This has not happened by chance. In the mid-1990s, Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties realized they'd be much stronger by working together and united their economic development efforts under a single entity, the Charleston Regional Development Alliance. Since then, each county has reaped the benefits of a larger tax base, improved career opportunities and a higher standard of living for area residents. I'm proud to have played a role in this new economic renaissance.

So why have Charleston's economic development efforts been so successful? For one, this three-county market has a growing number of globally significant business assets, from the most productive container port in North America to an integrated network of highly respected research institutions.

For another, Charleston is now a destination of choice for some of the most talented people in the world. Businesses locate and expand here because they know they can attract the workers they need to be successful.

When an economy is strong, new businesses start up and existing businesses move in and expand. Local governments have the resources to invest in infrastructure and lifestyle amenities. Local residents have access to good paying jobs and a safe place to live. Ultimately, improving a location's economic well being is why cities, counties, states – and entire countries – invest in strategic economic development programs.

Economic development is my vocation, but it's also my passion. If you're interested in learning more about Charleston and our economic development efforts, please don't hesitate to drop me a line.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David T. Ginn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David T. Ginn
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