

**WORKFORCE2030  
FEATURED  
SPEAKER**

## TED ABERNATHY

**Managing Partner**  
*Economic Leadership, LLC*

Ted is the Managing Partner of Economic Leadership LLC, a consultancy that is currently working in more than a dozen states to develop economic and workforce strategies. Ted has 40 years of experience in directing economic development and workforce development programs. From 2008-2013, Ted was the Executive Director of the Southern Growth Policies Board, a 42-year old public policy think tank that provided economic development research, strategy and marketing advice, to states and communities across the South. He also served as economic development policy advisor to the Southern Governors Association. He currently serves as economic advisor to the Council of State Chambers.

Before coming to Southern Growth, Ted was a practicing economic developer for 28 years. From 2000-2008, he served as Executive Vice President and COO for the Research Triangle Regional Partnership. During his eight years directing RTRP's operation he worked with hundreds of clients and helped generate 65,000 new jobs and almost \$10 billion in investment.

Ted's current projects include developing economic and workforce strategies in states and regions across the country, conducting research on manufacturing, transportation, and rural and producing the annual Home of Future Thinking conference. Over the past five years Ted and his team has worked on close to 150 projects.

Ted speaks to groups across the country and internationally on many topics including the economy, the future of work, trendspotting the future and organizational leadership. In the past year, he keynoted conferences for the The Southern Economic Development Council, The National Association of Workforce Professionals, the Society of Industrial Realtors, and dozens of state Chambers of Commerce, private business retreats and gatherings.

Born in Dallas, NC, Ted received his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; his Master's from Johns Hopkins University, is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute and is an Eisenhower Fellow for global economics.