

## George L. Freeland Jr., CEcD, EDFP

Executive Director, Jackson Economic Development Foundation, Inc.

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George L. Freeland, Jr. serves as the Executive Director of the Jackson County Economic Development Foundation, Inc. (JCEDF); a position he has held since March of 2001. The JCEDF is a comprehensive public-private economic development partnership comprised of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors, Jackson County Port Authority, municipalities of Pascagoula, Ocean Springs, Moss Point, and Gautier, and over 120 of the Mississippi Gulf Coast region's leading businesses and industries. As the Department of Defense designated Local Redevelopment Authority Executive Director, Freeland led the completion of the 500-million-dollar redevelopment of former Naval Station Pascagoula (i.e. Singing River Island).

Under his leadership, the JCEDF has come to be widely regarded as a model for public-private economic development partnership in the Southeast US. Freeland has led the creation of over 10,000 direct new jobs and five billion dollars of new capital investments. The diverse range of companies and related sectors recruited and expanded include manned and unmanned aerospace manufacturing and final assembly (Northrop Grumman Aerospace Autonomous Systems Global Hawk, Fire Scout, and F-35), energy and petrochemical based companies (Gulf LNG, BP, Enviva, Chevron Base Oil), advanced shipbuilding and propulsion systems (Huntington Ingalls, VT Halter Marine, ST Engineering Marine Halter Offshore, Signal International, World Marine, Rolls Royce Naval Marine), construction components (Zachery Industrial, Tindall Corp.), and homeland security technologies (Ferson Technologies).

A fourth generation native of Mobile, AL, he is a graduate of Auburn University where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Political Science, Public Administration, Environmental Sciences, and Community / Economic Development Planning and Development. He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute (EDI). The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) recognizes Freeland with the prestigious Certified Professional Economic Developer *CEcD* designation. The *CEcD* denotes a mastery of skills in economic development and professional attainment. It is considered the highest distinction for the economic development profession. The National Development Council has certified Freeland as an Economic Development Finance Professional (*EDFP*).

The Journal of South Mississippi Business and Mississippi Sun Herald have recognized Freeland as a Top Business Leader on the gulf coast and the Mississippi Business Journal recognized him as one of the State's Top Business Leaders.

He serves both the gulf coast region and State of Mississippi in various leadership capacities including:

- *Board Director*, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida Aerospace Alliance
- *Chairman*, Mississippi Development Authority / Mississippi Economic Council Economic Development Competitiveness Committee
- *President*, Mississippi Gulf Coast Alliance for Economic Development
- *Past President*, Mississippi Economic Development Council
- *Board Director*, Mississippi Coast Foreign Trade Zone
- *Board Director*, Mississippi Military Community Council

