

JEFFREY A. KACZMAREK

Biographical Sketch



Jeff joined the Prince William County Department of Economic Development as Executive Director in April 2012 and leads the Department's team in fulfilling its mission to create a robust, diverse Prince William County economy by attracting new companies; facilitating the retention and expansion of existing companies; and encouraging the emergence of new enterprises from within the county. At the heart of this strategy is the goal to create high-paying, sustainable jobs for the region's residents and to expand the county's commercial tax base.

In the last six years, the Department has assisted in projects totaling more than \$4.3 billion in private capital investment and the creation of over 3,000 jobs. Additionally, the Department has been instrumental in the establishment of two technology entrepreneurship initiatives – the Prince William Science Accelerator and the Virginia Serious Game Institute. Established in 2014, the Prince William Science Accelerator is the only commercially available public-private wet lab facility in Northern Virginia and supports the growth of early-stage and small life science companies. The 9,000 sq. ft. facility houses nine fully built-out wet laboratory spaces suited for each tenant's specific needs. The Science Accelerator has been an important driver for the region's fast-growing cluster of life and forensic sciences facilities. Currently, it is home to entrepreneurial start-up companies engaged in the research and development of pretreatment solutions to enhance the early detection of infectious diseases; therapeutic drugs designed to target autoreactive cells that drive autoimmune disease pathology; high efficiency electroporators; anti-inflammatory and immune-modulating drugs; prebiotics; and virological reagents and tools to support research and clinical investigations.

The Virginia Serious Games Institute (VSGI) is an incubator facility for computer game design companies. Also established in 2014, it has doubled in size and is currently home to 8 start-ups and applied research projects with more in the works. The VSGI has collectively created over 140 jobs, multiple patents, copyrights, and worked on innovation simulation and game solutions for corporate, government, education, health and entrepreneurial projects. Notable collaborations include projects with the Department of State, Army and Customs and Border Patrol. The VSGI also provides training for K12 students, undergraduate and graduate level degrees and executive training in game design skills and theory through its partnership with the Computer Game Design program at George Mason University and its outreach arm the Mason Game and Technology Academy. The VSGI has generated over \$1m in continued support and is currently in final negotiations of a partnership with TenCent America to increase its presence and reach. The VSGI sponsors the Serious Play conference and

has a prestigious board of advisors as well as the illustrious Nolan Bushnell (Founder of Atari and Chuck E Cheese) as its Game Pioneer in Residence.

Jeff has over 30 years of experience in Economic Development having led a variety of agencies and departments in economic development activities. Prior to joining Prince William County, Jeff was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Kansas City Economic Development Corporation (KCEDC) in Missouri. During his six-year tenure, KCEDC was significantly involved in over 100 business projects that resulted in \$1.6 billion in private investment and the creation and retention of over 11,000 jobs. Additionally, KCEDC provided substantial assistance to more than 30 development/redevelopment projects, resulting in more than \$2 billion in private investment.

Prior to this, Jeff served as Senior Vice President, Business Services & Community Development for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) where he was responsible for MEDC's local community assistance, infrastructure financing, small business assistance, economic development job training and export promotion programs. Before his MEDC position, Jeff had a long career with Oakland County, Michigan, which culminated in his position as Director of Community & Economic Development.

Jeff earned a B.S. in urban planning from Michigan State University and did his graduate work at Wayne State University. He serves on a variety of professional boards and organizations, and since coming to Prince William County, has completed the FBI Citizens Academy and Leadership Greater Washington programs. Jeff is also a member of the Board of Directors of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

June 2018