

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Ted Abernathy** has been the executive director of the Southern Growth Policies Board since 2008. He previously spent 30 years as an economic developer, most recently serving as the executive vice president of the Research Triangle Regional Partnership.

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**Andy Brack** is president and chair of the Center for a Better South, a pragmatic regional think tank based in Charleston, South Carolina. The center seeks to develop and push practical ideas for thinking leaders who want to make a difference in the American South.

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**Michael L. Walden** has been at North Carolina State University since 1978, where he has teaching, research, and extension responsibilities. He has written eight books, and his work focuses on the North Carolina economy and related public policy issues. As part of his outreach work, he does daily radio programs and a monthly radio call-in program, writes a biweekly newspaper column, and develops the monthly North Carolina State University Index of Leading North Carolina Economic Indicators. In 2010, he was awarded the University of North Carolina Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Public Service.

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**Randy Woodson** is North Carolina State University's 14th chancellor. He has extensive experience as a member of university faculty and administration with a reputation for consensus building and strategic visioning. He holds bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in horticulture from the University of Arkansas and Cornell University.

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