



**Erin Watkins**  
**Director, Research**



Erin Watkins serves as the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce's Research Director within Economic Development. Erin is responsible for compiling and analyzing statistics on the Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and Metro Region to assist in the recruitment and retention of business. Erin also develops and analyzes survey results; constructs and maintains Charlotte-area databases such as Major Employers, Manufacturers, Foreign-Owned Firms, Green Industry, Biotech and Power; and utilizes Geographic Information Software to build demographic and thematic maps. Erin also develops monthly economic indicators, a quarterly new and expanded business report and radial demographics.

Erin has been successful in grant writing for the Charlotte Chamber and secured a \$50,000 regional development grant in 2008 for the creation of a biotechnology asset inventory list. Erin also recently worked with the City of Charlotte to develop a Green Asset Inventory database.

Erin joined the Charlotte Chamber in November 2006 as Research Director. She is a native of Buffalo, and while there, worked with Cornell University in Workforce Development, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership within Business Development and the Buffalo Economic Renaissance Corporation within Business Retention.

Erin received a B.A. in Political Science and Urban Studies from Canisius College in 2001, and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and Economic Development from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 2006. Erin is currently enrolled in the PhD program at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte within the Geography and Urban Regional Analysis Program. She also is a graduate of the Basic Economic Development Course from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

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