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PRESS RELEASE
County Hires Economic Development Director
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Beaufort, North Carolina-October 11, 2017. Mark Mansfield, Chairman of the Carteret County Board of Commissioners, is excited to announce that Don Kirkman has been hired to rejuvenate the economic development efforts in Carteret County. Kirkman is no stranger to Carteret County, having previously served as the Economic Development Director from 1990-2000. During his prior tenure, he was responsible for the development of the Jarrett Bay Industrial Park and the Crystal Coast Business Park, among many other projects.



Don Kirkman (left) and County Manager Tommy Burns

Kirkman's career after Carteret County has included serving from 2000-2010 as the President and CEO of the Piedmont Triad Regional Economic Development Partnership based in Greensboro. Additionally, he has served stints as the President of Florida's Great Northwest Economic Development Regional Organization and Executive Director of the Hilton Head Economic Development Corporation.

"Don brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to Carteret County. He is a proven trailblazer in economic development. During our search process, it was very clear that he had the skills and experience to rebuild economic development in Carteret County. He brings instant credibility to our County and can again make Carteret County a strong force in economic development. Don obviously knows the area very well and welcomes the opportunity to reacquaint himself with business owners, community leaders, alliances at the local and State level, and all other interested parties to enable Carteret County to succeed and expand locally. We recently received the results of a study on Economic Development for the County, and we feel that Don will be instrumental as we work to complete the work highlighted in the study," said Chairman Mark Mansfield.

After graduating from UNC Chapel Hill's School of Law, Kirkman practiced law in Carteret County. In addition to his law degree, Kirkman received his Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy with Phi Beta Kappa honors, also from UNC Chapel Hill. He is also a Certified Economic Developer through the International Economic Development Council. In 2000, Don was selected by his peers to serve as the President of the North Carolina Economic Development Association.

His annual salary will be \$88,000. He will begin work on October 16, 2017.

He and his wife currently reside in Morehead City.

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