



Kevin D. Johnson
President & CEO

Kevin D. Johnson has been the driving force behind the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC) as its President and CEO since June 2018. Under his assertive leadership, DEGC has emerged as the leading entity in Detroit's economic development, spearheading initiatives that prioritize job creation, substantial capital investment, and robust small business growth. Johnson's unwavering commitment to access, inclusion, and financial empowerment for all Detroit residents shapes the core of DEGC's mission.

As CEO, Johnson has relentlessly advanced DEGC's economic development agenda, focusing on attracting and retaining businesses and fostering international investment. His strategic vision has built on DEGC's legacy of over 40 years of impactful work in Detroit. A hallmark of his leadership was securing Stellantis' monumental \$4.5 billion investment in the city, leading to the creation of thousands of jobs that will transform Detroit's economic landscape.

With a career spanning more than four decades in both public and private economic development, Johnson has held influential positions across various states, including Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Prior to his tenure at DEGC, he excelled as the Senior Vice President of Economic Development at Invest Atlanta, where he led transformative initiatives that created jobs and attracted billions in capital investment.

Johnson's distinguished leadership includes roles such as President of the Athens, GA Area Chamber of Commerce and Vice President of Business Development for the Greater Phoenix Economic Council and the Research Triangle Foundation in North Carolina.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Pre-Law from South Carolina State University and has earned the Certified Economic Developer Designation from the International Economic Development Council.



Johnson is deeply involved in the community and serves on multiple boards. He is the Chair of Economic Development Leaders for Michigan, an Executive Committee member of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, a board member of the Downtown Detroit Partnership, and a board member of TechTown Detroit. Additionally, he remains an essential member of the International Economic Development Council, consistently advocating for progress and innovation in economic development.

His expertise and impact have garnered significant recognition. He was named one of the Top 50 Economic Developers of 2019 by Consultant Connect and has been featured in the Power 50 lists by the Michigan Chronicle as well as the Power 500 by DBusiness Magazine. In 2024, he was honored with the prestigious Pioneer Award from DBusiness Magazine.