

Good Morning

five questions...



Mike McMahon — The Record
Michael Tucker, president and CEO of the Center for Economic Growth.

Michael Tucker is the president and CEO of the Center for Economic Growth. Tucker is originally from Kingston but moved to Delmar in 1981. After 25 years in the real estate development business, Tucker for two and a half years headed the redevelopment of the Harriman State Office Campus in Albany into a research and development park.

Q: Can you describe your role with CEG?

A: I basically work with our region's business, education, government and not-for-profit leaders to help grow existing businesses and prepare the region for growth. I do that with an incredible team here at CEG. We have 20 employees and I work closely with our members and our board of director to advance the Tech Valley.

Q: What is a typical day for you?

A: Today I met with a developer from outside the area who was coming to town wanting to know about the region and the opportunities for growth and who he should be touching base with. Yesterday I was at a press conference with Senator Schumer and the president of SUNY Albany.

Q: How important is technology to development, especially in this area?

A: The key to our technology development revolves around the research and development of our universities and colleges: That includes not only technology based education opportunities but in the social sciences, teaching and business. We need to ensure that we have all of the skill sets in our region to not only do technology and research but to run businesses and provide goods and services to the workforce.

Q: How have things changes since you moved here in 1981?

A: My office is on State Street in downtown Albany. Just looking out my window you could park anywhere in downtown and no one was on the streets. Now all of our downtowns are jam packed. Success creates momentum and each new project or incremental expansion accelerates the momentum attracting additional investment and creating more jobs.

Q: Outside of CEG what do you like do to do for fun?

A: I like to workout, I really enjoy Skiing. I also like to hike. I love the natural arts and cultural opportunities in the Capital District. There are just so many recreational activities here that I really enjoy.

— Stacy Bandhold