



Brian Cole | President Building Communities, Inc.

Distinctive Strengths: leader, speaker, author, and inventor of strategic planning processes and theories.

Summary of Experience: 25 years in the field of community and economic development as a practitioner, state development officer, county commissioner, and private consultant. Invented economic development strategic planning process, tools, and theories. Leading one of the fastest growing strategic planning firms in America.

Specific Relevant Experience:

- As **Founder and President of Building Communities**, Brian has established a national economic development strategic planning business based upon concepts put forth in self-authored book **Building Communities: 25 Strategies to Advance America**. Leading regional planning efforts in three states. Completing 50 community and economic development strategic plans in 2012/2013.
- Brian operated an **Economic Development Consulting Company** with a mission to help communities, businesses, and organizations to succeed through the delivery of services including strategic planning, grant writing, business planning, business finance, government relations, business development and community development.
- As the **Chairman of a County Board of Commissioners**, Brian built and led a management team for a 150-employee organization with a \$24 million annual budget, and provided leadership for a county of 17,000 population. He developed and maintained the county's strategic plan; established effective outreach efforts to all communities in county; established task forces to create state of the art telecommunications, identify power generation opportunities, rebuild fairgrounds, build an armory/conference center, and restructure the chamber and economic development efforts.
- Through his experience as **Regional Development Officer** of the Oregon Economic Development Department, Brian served five eastern Oregon counties by managing business development cases, marketing business finance and community grant programs, connecting communities to infrastructure resources, supporting at-risk businesses, and assisting communities with priority projects. Managed business recruitment cases that added over 2000 jobs in eastern Oregon.
- Baker County Oregon's first-ever **Economic Development Director**. Created program from scratch. Pursued six goals: business recruitment, business assistance, business start-ups, community capacity, grant writing and tourism development.

EDUCATION

Masters of Business Administration (MBA) for Business, Government and Not-For-Profit Businesses
Willamette University 1987

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration
Oregon State University 1984

AUTHORSHIP

**Building Communities:
25 Strategies to Advance America**

EXPERIENCE

Building Communities, Inc.
2009-Present

Founder and President
Provides community and regional strategic planning services

Economic Development Consultant
2003-2009
Principal

Provided strategic planning, grant writing, business planning, business finance and project management services

Baker County Commissioner
1999-2003
Chairman

Led and managed county government

State & Local

Economic Development Professional
1987-1998

Executive Director

State Regional Development Officer
Led local economic development program and served five rural counties with development programs and incentives

bc@BuildingCommunities.us
www.BuildingCommunities.us
(541) 523-0400
