



**Blair Stanford**  
CELC Executive Director



Blair Stanford serves as the Executive Director of the Charlotte Executive Leadership Council (CELC), a role she has held since December 2020. The CELC, which operates under the Foundation For The Carolinas, consists of the CEOs of many of Charlotte's largest headquartered companies and other key leaders.

Prior to her role at CELC, Blair led key initiatives at the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance (formerly the Charlotte Chamber), where she began in 1993 as a Public Relations manager and advanced steadily through the years to serve as Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President. Serving in the role of COO during the last 14 years of her 27-year tenure with the organization, she managed teams who were collectively responsible for driving economic growth and prosperity for all in the Charlotte Region through economic recruitment, advocacy, talent attraction and corporate engagement.

Her role afforded her the opportunity to manage special projects, which included serving as staff lead for the merger of the Charlotte Chamber and the Charlotte Regional Partnership, the Democratic National Convention, the 2006 CEO search, several economic planning efforts, the renovation of the chamber space and the transition to a new model of operation.

She serves/has served on the boards of the Charlotte Works, the Center for Digital Equity, MeckCounts, OutTeach, Hands on Charlotte, Queens University Alumni, Dore Academy, Collaborative Arts Theatre and Slow Food Charlotte, among others. She also served as President for the Charlotte Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

Honors received include Outstanding Alumnae (Queens University), 50 Most Influential Women (Mecklenburg Times), Women in Business Achievement Award, the Power 100 and 40 Under 40 (all from the Charlotte Business Journal). Blair is a Charlotte native and a proud graduate of Queens University, where she also earned her Executive Coaching Certification. She and husband, Michael, have a daughter, Quincy and son, Jack.

January 2025