

## Authors



### **Christopher M. Sieverdes, Ph.D.**

#### **Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economics and Community Development Specialist, Clemson University**

Sieverdes serves as director of Palmetto Leadership, which has been offered in 35 of South Carolina's 46 counties since 1988. Palmetto Leadership received the 2001 Most Outstanding Leadership Program Award by the Association of Leadership Educators, a premier national professional leadership association. As a community development specialist with the Clemson Extension Service, he chairs the Community, Leadership and Economic Development Initiative.

He is a Business Retention and Expansion Certified Master Consultant and coordinates the statewide program. Sieverdes received the Alumni Master Teacher Award at Clemson University as the top classroom teacher of the year. The University administration selected him for the 1996 Alumni Distinguished Public Service Award. He is a Fellow of the Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs and specializes in community, leadership and economic development. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Business Retention and Expansion International Association (BREI) and chaired the certification and education committee.

Sieverdes has also served several terms as chair during his seven years on the City of Clemson Planning Commission.

### **Erin P. Hardwick**

#### **Owner, Erin Hardwick & Associates, Columbia, S.C.; and Director of the South Carolina Association of Nonprofit Organizations**

Erin Hardwick is owner of Erin Hardwick & Associates, an association management company located in the state capital of Columbia. She and her staff manage four full-service associations providing a variety of services including executive management, advocacy, meeting planning, public relations, project management and more.

Among her responsibilities, Hardwick serves as executive director of the South Carolina Association of Nonprofit Organizations (SCANPO). A statewide association for charitable nonprofits, SCANPO provides support and services for board members and staff of charitable nonprofits.

Other clients include the Lexington Medical Center Foundation, the South Carolina Association of Health Underwriters, the League of Women Voters of South Carolina, The Five Points (Columbia, S.C.) Merchants Association, the South Carolina Association for Career and Technical Education and the Alumni Associations of Leadership Columbia and Leadership Lexington County.

Before opening her own firm, Hardwick served in management positions for two professional associations — the South Carolina Association of School Administrators and the South Carolina School Boards Association.

As the founding executive director of SCANPO, she has helped the association grow



to nearly 550 member organizations in five years, bringing in more \$600,000 in grants and public support to develop programs to serve the state's nonprofit sector.

Through innovative programs and a strong partnership with the SCANPO board, Hardwick has leveraged resources to enhance opportunities for nonprofits. In 2000, she received financial support from two national organizations — the National Association of Nonprofit Associations and the Independent Sector — to build SCANPO's advocacy and policy initiative. This support has resulted in a variety of programs aimed at raising public awareness of nonprofits, teaching nonprofits about advocacy and lobbying and seeking policy advances for nonprofits and their clients. In 2002, Hardwick created a major regional funding collaborative within South Carolina to provide capacity building services to nonprofit organizations in that geo- graphic area.

Hardwick is past chair of the Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce, a growing organization with over 850 members. She is also the former president of the state chapter of the National School Public Relations Association. She is a member of the Columbia Rotary Club and chair of its 2002-03 membership development committee. She has been active in the American Society of Association Executives and its South Carolina Chapter since 1991.