

Biography for Mark Scarano

Mark Scarano is Executive Director of the Community Business Partnership (CBP), a non profit business assistance organization servicing Fairfax County and Northern Virginia; one of America's fastest growing and ethnically diverse regions.

As Executive Director, Scarano oversees the CBP's high impact divisions including the South Fairfax Small Business Development Center, the Women's Business Center, the Business Finance Center, the Business Incubation Center, and the Veterans Business Outreach Center. Together, these award winning centers provide training and counseling services to thousands of entrepreneurs and small businesses annually.

Before the CBP, Scarano was unanimously confirmed by the US Senate in 2015 as Federal Co-Chair of the Northern Border Regional Commission and was formally appointed to the post thereafter by President Obama. As Federal Co-Chair, Scarano relaunched the agency into a strong Federal-State partnership for economic development in northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. Through strategic relationships, Scarano oversaw the doubling of the NBRC's Congressional appropriations as well as long term planning and governance agreements with the four State governments, development districts, and economic development non profits. In its short history, the NBRC provided funding that led to the direct creation of 77 new jobs and the retention of over 300 in some of the northeast's most economically distressed counties.

Scarano started his economic development career in 2006 as Community Development Director in Millinocket, Maine, before being hired by the Piscataquis County (Maine) Economic Development Council as their Business Development Director and, subsequently, Executive Director. In that position, he led successful efforts to attract job creating manufacturers to Piscataquis County as well as support workforce, tourism, and community development initiatives that helped sustain the region's economy.

During his eight years leading the Grafton (New Hampshire) Regional Development Corporation, Scarano expanded the development programs offered by the Corporation to include workforce development, economic development financing, and entrepreneurship promotion. Successes included funding an innovative program that provides high school students with real world, technical internships at local businesses as well as fundraising and constructing a \$2.3 million business incubator in Plymouth in partnership with Plymouth State University. Scarano also oversaw the doubling of rentable space at the Dartmouth Regional Technology Center, a business incubator partnership with Dartmouth College. At 66,000 square feet, the Center is one of the largest incubators in the northeast. Together, these incubators assisted start up firms to create over 400 new jobs as well as contribute significant tax revenues to local jurisdictions.

Scarano was raised in northern Maine and graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Maine and a master's degree from the Iowa State University of Science and Technology.