WOMEN LEAD NC

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Debra Derr
Director of Government Affairs
NC Chamber

Debra L. Derr credits her success to being in the right place at the right time and willing to take a chance on herself. Her background as a radio announcer and eventually a television producer/writer, laid the groundwork for a career in public relations and government affairs. As a former congressional press secretary, her one-minute speeches were used as an example of how to write them for the congressman's freshman class. She was a founding member of Wake County Commission on Women where she was public affairs director for the county. Debra was a part of a team of lobbyists that helped lead the effort to bring video competition to North Carolina and was consistently ranked among the Top 50 Most Influential Lobbyists when she was with BellSouth. Before returning to her government affairs roots with the NC Chamber, she was chief deputy secretary for the NC Department of Cultural Resources and a partner in Market Solutions etc. She was a 2010 recipient of the General Federation of Women's Club *Women of Achievement Award* and holds a bachelor's degree in mass communications from Norfolk State University where she was graduated Cum Laude.