

NC Chamber

83rd Annual Leadership Dinner & Awards

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Sharon Decker
President
Tryon Equestrian Partners

Born and raised in small towns near Charlotte, N.C., Sharon Decker's history offers inspiration for men and women everywhere. She is a highly successful business executive who has effectively balanced her professional life with responsibilities of the home, service to the community and devotion to her faith.



After graduating summa cum laude from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Sharon spent more than 17 years with Duke Power Company, now Duke Energy. She began with the company in consumer services and moved rapidly through the ranks to become the youngest and first female Vice President in Duke Power's history. Her work at Duke Power led to the creation of its 24-hour customer service center, an organization that still serves as a model for the industry.

Sharon left Duke Power when serving as their Chief Communications Officer, to become the founding President of The Lynnwood Foundation, which was created to restore the Duke Mansion in Charlotte as a conference center and to begin the William States Lee Leadership Institute. While at Lynnwood in 1998, she also served as the chair of the Charlotte Chamber and was named Charlotte Woman of the Year. She moved to Rutherfordton, NC in 1999 to serve as President of the Doncaster division of Tanner Companies. She created the Tapestry Group in 2004, focusing full time on encouraging individuals to grow deeper, spiritually, and in more healthy ways, physically, mentally and emotionally.

In 2013 Sharon was appointed Secretary of Commerce by Governor Pat McCrory and served in that capacity for two years. During that time she led the creation of The Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, a public-private entity, charged with marketing North Carolina globally. In addition, she led the efforts to form a new Rural Division of the Department of Commerce, a team focused exclusively on creating economic growth in the rural areas of the State.

In September 2015, Sharon returned home to the foothills region of Western North Carolina to join Tryon Equestrian Partners as Chief Operating Officer of Carolinas Operations and was named President in 2020. In this role, Sharon is responsible for the development of Tryon International as a premier sports and entertainment venue. It is an opportunity to do what she loves most— creating community and economic growth—in the place she loves the most—North Carolina.

Sharon is wife to husband, Bob. They are parents of four children: Rob, Matt, Abby and Emily. She is a lay pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is two courses from completing her Masters of Divinity at Gardner Webb University. Sharon has served on numerous public, private and non profit boards throughout her career. She currently serves on the boards of Coca Cola Bottling Company Consolidated, Culp, Inc., The Weisiger Group and Advent Health Polk.