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## **Jay Schwedler named SCEDA Local Developer of the Year**

**COLUMBIA, S.C. – May 7, 2012** – The S.C. Economic Developers' Association (SCEDA) announced that Jay Schwedler, president and chief executive of the Sumter County Development Board, was named its Local Developer of the Year.

Schwedler was honored during the 2012 SCEDA Annual Conference at the Westin Hilton Head Island Resort. The award recognizes the hard work and dedication of local developers in South Carolina who have made a significant difference in their community.

The Sumter County Development Board played a key role in the October 2011 decision by Continental Tire to invest \$534 million in a manufacturing facility in Sumter County, creating more than 1,600 jobs.

Known as a tireless worker, Schwedler, a South Carolina Certified Economic Developer, has served as president and chief executive of the Sumter County Development Board since 2006. He has also assisted with the board's private-sector partner, the Sumter Smarter Growth Initiative. Prior to his current position, he worked in Florence as assistant economic development director. He has also managed the International Investment Team for the Michigan Economic Development Corp. and has led local economic development agencies in Lapeer County, Mich., and Lee County, S.C. In his career, Jay has had a hand in more than \$2 billion in investment and the creation of more than 11,000 jobs.

Since 1965, the S.C. Economic Developers' Association has served as the Voice of Economic Development in the Palmetto State. A professional trade association of more than 580 members, with representation from all 46 counties, SCEDA includes local and regional economic developers, as well as officials from municipal, county and state government agencies, construction and engineering firms, utility companies, attorneys, consultants, financial institutions, and higher education. To learn more, visit [www.SCEDA.org](http://www.SCEDA.org).

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