

## **Skip Alford**

Skip Alford is an experienced executive leader with a career grounded in disciplined public service, strategic economic development, and collaborative community advancement. A 20-year veteran of the United States Air Force, he brings a leadership style defined by integrity, preparedness, and a mission-oriented mindset.

Following military service, Skip transitioned into Florida's chamber and economic development sector, where for more than 18 years he has helped lead organizations through growth, modernization, and deeper alignment between business, education, and workforce systems. His roles have included Director of Membership Development for the Panama City Beach Chamber of Commerce, CEO of the South Dade Chamber, President & CEO of the Greater Palm Harbor Area Chamber of Commerce, and currently President & CEO of the Lake Wales Area Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Council.

In Lake Wales, Skip's work focuses on strengthening long-term economic competitiveness, expanding job opportunities, attracting private investment, and supporting responsible growth that protects cultural character while raising regional quality of life. His leadership emphasizes collaboration across industry, education, and local government to ensure strategic alignment and sustainable outcomes for students, families, and employers.

Skip holds a master's degree in human resource management from Troy University and maintains professional certifications from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute of Management and the Florida Association of Chamber Professionals.

Originally from Clinton, Mississippi, Skip has been married to his wife Sue for 41 years. They have three sons and six grandchildren.