

## **Brenda Garder, MPA, GCDF, GCDF-I**

Candidate for Trustee for State Divisions



Brenda Gardner is a regional workforce advisor for the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, the state agency charged with workforce development. Brenda covers a four-county area, connecting business and education with the future workforce through strategic partnerships and gap analysis. Brenda is a certified Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) and GCDF-Instructor, a master trainer for the Microburst Employability Skills program, a certified business services consultant, and graduate of the SC Economic Development Institute. Brenda has a master's degree in public administration from Troy University.

Currently, Brenda serves as past president of the SC Career Development Association. She has been a board member since the state chapter's inception. As a founding member, she initially served on the communications committee, then president elect, and then president of the state chapter.

Brenda received her Master of Public Administration from Troy University and her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. She received the NADO (National Association of Development Organizations) Award for convening a regional workforce summit and was named the statewide (SC) Adult Education Community Partner of the Year. She was recognized with the Duke Progress Energy Community Award for Chamber Career Forums impacting more than 2000 middle and high school students and 300 business partners. She also founded a Manufacturing Expo for 8<sup>th</sup> graders that extended to four counties and spearheaded a health sector partnership for the Workforce Investment Board. She is an established and recognized partner for the award-winning eSTEAM Festival, recipient of the Excellence on Main Street Award, the Merit Award from the Southern Economic Development Council, and the Silver Award from the International Economic Development Council.

### **Goal Statement:**

Brenda's goal for the State Divisions Trustee position is simple – to maintain the excellent service previously executed by the state divisions trustee and build upon it to further support the state divisions through communication, collaboration, and coordination. She considers it an honor to take her knowledge of being a founding member of her state organization to assist state divisions and provide resources needed under the umbrella of such a prestigious organization.