



Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D., serves as a Fellow in the Joseph P. Riley Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston. He also teaches in the college's Graduate School of Public Administration and serves as faculty in the Institute of Local Government Leadership.

Until 2018, Dr. Gordon served for 35 years as the president and CEO of the Economic Development Authority in Fairfax County, Virginia, the second-largest suburban office market in the nation and the largest in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Under his leadership, office space in the county grew from 32 million square feet to more than 116 million, and jobs in the county grew from 243,000 to almost 600,000. As a result, the real estate tax rate decreased from \$1.47 to \$1.13.

In 2005, the FCEDA was named by Site Selection magazine as one of the Top Ten Economic Development organizations in North America. In 2007, *Time* magazine called Fairfax County "one of the great economic success stories of our time." In 2011, the Washington Post said that "Fairfax County remains the economic wunderkind of Virginia and in many ways of the Washington area."

Dr. Gordon also worked for 10 years for the Arlington County, Virginia, local government and the United States Department of Labor. He has also taught at Catholic University, the University of Maryland, George Mason University, and Virginia Commonwealth University. He has consulted with city and state governments throughout the United States and around the world, as well as the governments of Poland, the island of Vieques in Puerto Rico, and Micronesia. Dr. Gordon also served as a consultant to various government agencies, the United States Navy, businesses, non-profit organizations, associations, colleges and universities, and the United Nations.

Dr. Gordon is the author of 12 books on strategic planning and economic development. His most recent book is *Understanding Community Economic Growth and Decline* (Routledge Press, 2018). Other books include *The Economic Survival of America's Isolated Small Towns* (CRC Press, 2015), *The Economic Viability of Micropolitan America* (CRC Press, 2013), *Reinventing Local and Regional Economies* (CRC Press, 2011) and *The Formula for Economic Growth on Main Street America* (CRC Press, 2009). He holds a bachelor's degree from The Citadel, a master's degree from The George Washington University, and a doctorate in international economics from The Catholic University of America.

Among his many awards, he is the 2003 recipient of the prestigious Israel Freedom Award of the Israel Bonds organization. In 2006, Dr. Gordon became the first American to address the All-Parliamentary Exports Group in the British House of Commons. In 2007, he was accepted for inclusion on the roster of Fulbright Senior Scholars. Also in 2007, he was named a Fellow of the International Economic Development Council.

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In 2010, Virginia Business named Dr. Gordon its "Virginia Business Person of the Year." That year he also received the James Rees Award from the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. In 2013, 2014 and 2015, Virginia Business tapped Dr. Gordon for its "50 Most Influential Virginians" list. In 2015, the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) awarded Dr. Gordon its Jeffrey A. Finkle Organizational Leadership Award that is presented to individuals who have led economic development organizations for at least 15 years.

Leadership Fairfax, Inc. named Dr. Gordon the recipient of the 2011 Northern Virginia Regional Leadership Award. In 2012, Transwestern, Delta Associates, Baker Tilly and PNC Real Estate honored Dr. Gordon as a TrendLines Trendsetter of the Year for the Washington metropolitan area for his contributions to the commercial real estate industry.

During his time in Fairfax County, Dr. Gordon also chaired the boards of the Fairfax Symphony, Arts Council of Fairfax County, the Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools and the George Mason University Honors College. He also has served on the board of the IEDC and is a Fellow Member and Honorary Life Member of the organization.