

JOE FIALA

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Team leader with 25+ years of experience in business and economic development. Focused on serving the state of South Dakota by providing new and better career opportunities for its citizens. Skilled in economic development, project management, leadership, business development, finance, entrepreneurship, and public-private partnerships.

EXPERIENCE

AUGUST 2024 – PRESENT

COMMISSIONER, SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Leads the strategic direction and operational activities of the office, focused on driving the economic development environment in the state to ensure the success of the next generation of South Dakotans.

JULY 2016 – AUGUST 2024

DIRECTOR, SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Served in various director-level roles leading teams to improve the economic development environment across South Dakota. These teams include community development, research, business development and partner relations.

MARCH 2012 – JULY 2016

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE, SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Responsible for expanding job opportunities in South Dakota. Focused on lead generation, in-state company expansions, business recruitment, and state incentives designed to help foster business development. Served as the liaison between business prospects and community development officials.

JUNE 2007 – MARCH 2012

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ON HAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Led the private, non-profit corporation dedicated to the economic development of Miller, SD, and the surrounding area. Coordinated business growth efforts with the city, county, chamber of commerce and other partners.

APR 2005 – JUNE 2007

PRESIDENT, NORTHERN PLAINS FIRE, INC.

Founded Northern Plains Fire to provide high-quality wildland firefighting engines to volunteer fire departments at a reasonable price.

JUNE 1996 – APR 2005

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT, MICROSOFT

Served as a Software Quality Assurance Engineer and later as a Program Manager developing ERP software for manufacturing businesses. Started with a small software development firm and through corporate acquisition landed at Microsoft.

EDUCATION

2022

LEADERSHIP SOUTH DAKOTA FOR STATE GOVERNMENT, LEADERSHIP SOUTH DAKOTA

2013

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE PROFESSIONAL (EDFP), NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

2000

CERTIFIED IN PRODUCTION AND INVENTORY MANAGEMENT (CPIM), ASSOCIATION FOR SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

1986 - 1991

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Computer Science, Mathematics, Theatre

SKILLS

- Economic Development
- Project Management
- Business Administration and Finance
- Leadership
- Public Speaking
- Critical Thinking

ACTIVITIES

Actively engaged in various multi-state, state-wide, and local boards and volunteer opportunities including the boards or advisory boards for South Dakota Trade, South Dakota Small Business Development Center, Avera Hand County Hospital, Manufacturing and Technology Solutions, Heartland Economic Development Course, and the Hand County Health, Wellness, and Community Foundation.

I enjoy the outdoors, technology, music, maps, and woodworking.