

# Staff

## Clay Walker, CEcD CEO



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Clay Walker is the CEO of NETWORKS Sullivan Partnership, where he leads the economic development efforts of Sullivan County, Tennessee, and the marketing and recruitment for neighboring Hawkins County. He has been in his current position since January of 2014. Over the last four years, NETWORKS and its community partners have been involved with the generation of more than 3,300 primary jobs and became known as "Where Tennessee Begins Its Business Day!"

Walker has some 20 years of economic development experience, having worked at the community and regional levels as well as leading his own consulting firm. He moved from Kentucky - where he last worked as Vice President, Economic Development for West Kentucky Corporation, a 45-county regional organization - to Tennessee in 2005 when he accepted the position of Executive Director for the Gallatin Economic Development Agency, prior to joining NETWORKS.

Walker was born and grew up in Paducah, Kentucky. He is a graduate of Murray State University, Oklahoma University's Economic Development Institute, and is a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD). He serves as Immediate Past Chairman of the Tennessee Economic Partnership and is a member of the Tennessee Economic Development Council, the Southern Economic Development Council, the International Economic Development Council, and the National Business Aviation Association. He has been published in several site selection magazines over the years on topics such as workforce evaluation and development, labor laws, and regional marketing. In 2017, Walker was recognized as a Top 50 Economic Developer by Consultant Connect.

Walker has a son, Ty, who resides in Leadville, Colorado, where he works in computer gaming when he's not skiing with his dad on one of his visits. Walker also enjoys the many outdoor activities Northeast Tennessee has to offer, NASCAR, and his beloved Racer basketball.

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# Michael Parker

## Executive Project Manager

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Michael was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee, but relocated to Northeast Tennessee to complete his education at East Tennessee State University where he received his bachelor's degree in Political Science as well as his master's in Public Administration. Michael joined the NETWORKS team in February of 2011 and has played an integral role in the organization's recent successes. Michael wears many hats at NETWORKS and serves as the organization's lead project manager.

Michael is a 2014 graduate of Lead Bristol and continues to assist with the organization's economic development program day.

Michael married his wife, Morgan, in August of 2016, and they are the proud parents of a dog named Oliver. Oliver can often be found at the NETWORKS office and serves as the honorary mascot for the NETWORKS team.

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# Brian Ritz

## Project Manager

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Brian is a native of Kingsport, TN. Previous to joining NETWORKS, Brian worked in Bristol, VA for BVU Authority as their Key Accounts Manager for 4+ years. Brian, in his role as Key Account Manager, has assist the Bristol/Washington County, VA region on a wide array of economic development projects. Brian has also served on various boards in the Bristol area including Believe in Bristol & the Bristol Chamber of Commerce. He also is a certified Key Account Manager through the American Public Power Association. He is currently working toward a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) designation through the International Economic Development Council.

Brian is a graduate of Milligan College with a Bachelor's degree in Business & also did two years of coursework at East Tennessee State University. While pursuing his Business degree, Brian enjoyed a successful collegiate baseball career at both Milligan College & ETSU.

Brian spends most of his weekends with his wife watching their two sons play youth football & baseball. He also enjoys golf and fly-fishing the South Holston River in Bristol for trout.

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# Dana Glenn

## Administrative & Marketing Coordinator



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Dana serves as the Administrative and Marketing Coordinator at NETWORKS Sullivan Partnership, where she manages the office and oversees all marketing and communications projects. Prior to joining NETWORKS in 2015, Dana was the Administrative and Marketing Coordinator for the Kingsport Office of Small Business Development and Entrepreneurship (KOSBE.) She is a graduate of East Tennessee State University and holds a business degree.

Dana serves as President of PEAK - Kingsport Young Professionals, and sits on various boards in the community, including United Way of Greater Kingsport and Branch House Family Center. She is a member of the Business Journal's 40 Under Forty class of 2017 and a 2016 graduate of Leadership Kingsport.