



## 1: The Role of Economic Development in the Workforce Ecosystem with Guest Will Coppage

Dig deep into the role that economic development plays in the workforce ecosystem.

In this episode, we sit down with Will Coppage, deputy director for the [Washington County Economic Alliance \(WCEA\)](#) in Greenville, Mississippi. Will shares how his community continues to overcome the challenges of being a rural county by taking a regional approach and leveraging the Work Ready Communities model. By identifying the level of competency in the workforce and evaluating the needs of employers, WCEA aligned training and education to minimize skills gaps.

The effort grew into a multi-county collaboration called [Delta Strong](#), which provides a narrative to represent the entire region. The end result? A positive attitude among residents and trust within the community. Tune in to hear about the collaboration that made it possible, how they overcame the biggest hurdles, and how the alignment of assets strengthened the workforce ecosystem.

Don't miss the [tips for engaging site location consultants](#).

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## **Resources**

[Washington County Economic Alliance](#)

[Mississippi Delta Community College's CAPPS Technology Center](#)

[Delta Strong Mississippi](#)

[ACT Work Ready Communities](#)

[ACT Workforce Solutions](#)