

Biography

City of Poquoson

Charity C Gavaza

Economic Development Office, City of Poquoson

Charity Gavaza has been Poquoson's Economic Development Coordinator for nearly five years assisting the city in developing the business tax base including the following target activities:

- New business development -Promote business friendly culture in city through new business welcome and support, work with Planning/Community Development to implement processes to simplify development. Promote city and EDA properties for development.
- Business Retention – strategize and implement programs to assist and promote Poquoson business
- Marketing/Tourism – gain and implement Virginia Tourism Corp grants – implement programs, events and
- Interact with city officials to adopt initiatives for Economic Development and support the EDA Board.
- Involvement with regional, state and national organizations for Economic Development.

Other Experience

Previous experience includes self-employed Import/Export-wholesale distribution of gifts and toys, Special Programs at The Irvine Company (Irvine/Newport Beach, CA), start up and management of existing non-profit Spectrumotion (Irvine, CA) and retail management.

Education

Christopher Newport – Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Admin/Marketing

Continuing education – Lifetime learner continually taking classes – currently taking Adobe, photography and related classes at TNCC working toward an Associate degree in Computer Arts

Completion of all required classes to sit for qualifying exam for CEcD certification (internationally recognized Certified Economic Developer)

Organizations

HREDA – Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance

VEDA – Virginia Economic Development Association – serving on the Professional Development Committee

IEDC – International Economic Development Council