



Contact: Mike Randle, Publisher
Southern Business & Development magazine
205.871.1220 or Michael@sb-d.com

September 24, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark Williams Voted As One of Top Site Consultants by Readers of *Southern Business & Development* Magazine

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - Mark Williams, president of Columbia, S.C.-based Strategic Development Group, has been voted as one of the South's top site consultants by readers of *Southern Business & Development* (SB&D) magazine. As a site consultant, Williams helps companies search for suitable business locations that will save money and boost productivity.

To develop the list of top consultants, SB&D did extensive surveying of the South's local and state economic developers, which represent a portion of its readership. The goal was to identify the best "service providers" for locating companies. The list was published in SB&D's latest issue (Summer 2009), which was released earlier this week. SB&D is the leading publication that promotes corporate investment and job creation in the American South, the world's fourth largest economy.

"We wanted to create a directory of top service providers in different categories, so when companies are looking for the right location, they can turn to trusted sources for legal advice, accounting work, or site consulting," explains SB&D's Publisher Mike Randle.

As Randle notes, it's significant the list was developed based on the input from economic developers. "These are the people who work with service providers on a very regular basis, so they know which ones are hard-working, capable and knowledgeable," Randle says. "The people included in our directory set the standard for professional excellence."

Randle says he believes Williams made the list because of his 20-plus years experience in helping hundreds of global companies find locations and negotiate incentives. Williams has worked with Bridgestone, ASMO, Koyo, Nakatesu, Sertapak, BP, Tupperware, and numerous others.

In addition to his work with corporate site selection, Williams also helps communities and states with strategic planning and implementation as well as marketing. He has earned professional designations of Certified Economic Developer (CED) and Certified

Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP) and has chaired the American Economic Development Council's Certification Board. Before launching Strategic Development Group, he served as Chief Development Officer for a state industry-recruiting agency.

About SB&D

SB&D magazine reports on corporate relocation and expansion in the nation's number one region in economic development, the South. The magazine's websites are www.sb-d.com, www.southernautocorridor.com, and www.smalltownsouth.com.

About Strategic Development Group

Strategic Development Group, located in Columbia, S.C., offers expert site location and negotiation services. In addition, Strategic Development Group provides a variety of economic development services such as strategic planning marketing, conference and retreat speaking, and website design. These services are designed to help economic development organizations enhance their ability to attract investment and create quality jobs. The company's website is www.strategicdev.com.