

**Governor's Workforce Summit 2008**  
**Biography for Kenneth E. Poole, Ph.D.**

---

**Kenneth E. Poole, Ph.D.**

Dr. Kenneth E. Poole is CEO of the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness (CREC) and Executive Director, Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER). In January 2000, Dr. Poole formed CREC as an independent non-profit affiliated with George Mason University and C2ER. CREC focuses on developing a stronger understanding of how regional economies can compete effectively in the knowledge-based economy. As part of those efforts, Dr. Poole directs a national nonprofit membership organization (C2ER) serving economic and community development researchers in communities, states, academia, and the private sector.

Dr. Poole has managed economic development research, analysis, and technical assistance efforts for 25 years. In his work, Dr. Poole undertakes organizational development, strategic planning, network building, and technical assistance efforts to foster knowledge-based economic development working across the nation. Recent efforts have involved projects in North Carolina, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, and Hawaii.

Dr. Poole holds a Ph.D. in Regional Development Policy from George Mason University. He serves on the editorial boards of Economic Development Quarterly and the Journal for Applied Research in Economic Development as well as the advisory board of the Troy University Center for International Business and Economic Development.