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**LARRY SASSANO**  
**President**  
**Economic Development Council for Okaloosa County**



Larry Sassano has been the President of the Economic Development Council for Okaloosa County since 1997. He is responsible for creating and implementing a comprehensive strategic plan for business development, retention and expansion, and economic diversity for Okaloosa County.

He supervised and developed State and National marketing and targeted industry programs for the Florida Department of Commerce for 13 years. He has also conducted several research studies for state and regional economies, including: *Florida's Primary Targeted Industrial Profile*; *Rural Development Concepts for Marketing your community*; and *A Financial Strategy for The Creation of Technology Workforce*.

Before his involvement in economic development, Larry owned and operated retail stores in Ohio and Florida for 12 years.

Professional Associations include:

Board Member Florida's Great Northwest  
 Board Member Workforce Development Board for Okaloosa and Walton Counties  
 Board of Directors United Way for Okaloosa-Walton Counties  
 University of West Florida President's Military Council Member  
 Economic Development Practitioner Advisory Committee Member for Enterprise Florida, Inc.  
 Florida Defense Alliance Member  
 Florida Economic Development Council Member  
 Florida Chamber of Commerce Member  
 International Economic Development Council Member  
 Association of Defense Communities Member  
 Southern Economic Development Council Member  
 Past Executive Director for the EDC for Bay County, Florida  
 Past President of the 16 county Northwest Florida International Affairs Commission  
 Past President of the 10 county Northwest Florida Economic Development Coalition.

Larry holds a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Ohio University and performed Graduate Degree work at Baldwin Wallace University. He is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute (EDI), University of Oklahoma.

Current as of October 2009.

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**Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County**

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