

Sean Hughes is the Economic Development Director for the City of Delaware. In this role, he has led projects that created or retained over 2,128 jobs in the City. Hughes is lead the creation of the City of Delaware's Entrepreneur Center and crafted the city's two economic development positions into business concierge roles. Hughes also was instrumental in finalizing the Sawmill Parkway Extension, a critical piece of Delaware County transportation infrastructure that will allow access to an additional 1,600 acres of industrial, office and commercial acreage in the city. Hughes introduced the concept of a strong Economic Development Incentive Policy for the City of Delaware. This instrument allows the city and its partner school districts to effectively and responsibly utilize incentives to attract and retain high wage jobs that are appropriate for today's City of Delaware labor force. It also allows them to effectively monitor and manage these incentives for desired impact. In less than four years, the city is already seeing a decrease in labor outflow due to these efforts.

A graduate of Ohio University with a bachelor's degree in journalism – advertising management, and Franklin University with a master's degree in marketing and communication, Hughes previously served as Executive Director of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Madison County Future, Inc. Community Improvement Corporation and Madison County CVB.

Through this role, he was the architect of Madison County's economic development and tourism organizations and worked to retain 1,000 jobs and create 3,200 jobs during the recession. These efforts led to the local average wage increasing by nearly 20% and the county increasing its import of needed labor force from below 40% to over 60%.

After turning the faltering Chamber around and increasing its membership by over 100% by creating innovative programs and member services, Hughes was named the 2009 Chamber Executive of the Year for the state of Ohio.

In addition to his economic development experience, Hughes has 23 years of marketing and communication experience and 12 years of association management experience. Many of these years were spent in higher education.

Former President of the Board of Directors for the Ohio Economic Development Association, Hughes has been instrumental in helping to reshape and strengthen the fairly young association. In his roles as President and Immediate Past President, he also worked with JobsOhio to create the idea of a statewide certification program for Ohio's economic development professionals which will see its first class this March.

He also is a Board Director with the Mid Ohio Development Exchange.

Hughes has counseled nearly 1,000 small businesses or entrepreneurs adding to a holistic economic development approach.

Hughes currently lives with his wife Sue Ellen and daughter Mackenzie outside of Powell.