

Diane Akers is the President of The Blacksburg Partnership, a non-profit, independent economic development organization formed by leaders from the Town of Blacksburg, the business community, and Virginia Tech. The organization's purpose is to bolster the vitality of Blacksburg through projects that attract visitors and retail prospects. Diane oversees the development of property, the revitalization of retail districts, special events, and marketing programs. With more than twenty years of professional and management experience serving local governments and small businesses, Diane will bring a wealth of experience to the SVLF Advisory Board.

Education:

- B.A. in Business Management from Mary Baldwin College
- M.A.L.S. in Economics from Hollins University
- Certified Economic Developer (CEcD)
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM)

Additional Employment:

- Owner and President of ComBiz Solutions, providing management consulting services for local governments and small businesses

Previous Employment:

- Assistant City Manager, City of Roanoke
- Director of Economic Development, City of Roanoke
- Budget Administrator, City of Roanoke

Professional, Civic, and Community Organizations:

- Eastern Division Alliance Co-Chair of the International Council of Shopping Centers
- Board Member of the American Heart Association
- Board of Commissioners for This Valley Works
- Finance Committee Member for Total Action Against Poverty (TAP)
- Virginia Economic Developers Association