

Alice Sampson

Partner, Georgia Downtowns



Alice Sampson is a former professor and director at the University of North Georgia (UNG). Focusing on community engagement, education, and economic development, Alice served North Georgia and the community in several leadership roles.

She founded and directed the Georgia Appalachian Studies Center. For ten years she worked with campus and community partners to garner over a million dollars in grant awards and to complete over 20 economic and education community projects, including leading the production of a professional academic conference.

She also led the university's *Regional Education and Economic Development* project, also known as the *REED* Initiative. Alice produced a series of community meetings held across the state where participants from the public sectors of local and regional governments, schools, and planning agencies discussed and prioritized the most important challenges and opportunities for developing economic drivers in the region. The project led to the production of the *REED* document, which still serves as a guidebook for the University of North Georgia's community economic development strategies.

During her last year at the university, Alice served as the interim Associate Dean for the College of Education.

Alice received her Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. Before that, she taught public school for eight years, during which time she was awarded twice *Oglethorpe County Teacher of the Year* and nominated as a finalist for *Georgia Teacher of the Year*.

Alice is a professionally trained meeting facilitator and process planner. As a lifelong educator, she is passionate about community-building, public input, and local place-making.

When she is not working with downtowns, Alice serves on the Dahlonega Historic Preservation Commission. She can be found photographing the charm of small town living, volunteering in the community, and hanging out in the local coffee shop.

