



Executive Profile



Rhonda Whitaker Hurtt
 Vice President, Community Relations
 and Economic Development
 Duke Energy Ohio and Kentucky

Rhonda Whitaker Hurtt is vice president of community relations and economic development for Duke Energy Ohio and Kentucky, overseeing economic development efforts and leading a team that engages with local government officials and community leaders on a variety of matters related to Duke Energy and its customers and communities. The company delivers energy to 870,000 electric customers and 542,000 natural gas customers across southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky.

Prior to assuming her current role in August 2018, Rhonda managed government and community relations for Duke Energy Kentucky for 17 years. She previously held positions in shareholder services, investor relations, strategic planning and corporate foundation since joining the company in 1992.

Among her many accomplishments at Duke Energy, in 2011, Rhonda established the Urban Revitalization Initiative, which awards catalytic grants to projects that spur redevelopment in urban cores across Greater Cincinnati. Since inception, the program has provided nearly \$2.4 million in grants to 72 projects.

Rhonda is extremely active in community and business organizations, currently serving on the boards of directors of ArtsWave, REDI Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky Tri-County Economic Development Corp. (Tri-ED), Northern Kentucky Education Council and the Catalytic Funding Corp. of Northern Kentucky. She is also a member of the Northern Kentucky Workforce Investment Board.

She has served on the board of directors of the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce for more than 15 years. During her time as board chair for the 2017-18 fiscal year, Rhonda spearheaded the launch of GROW NKY, a comprehensive workforce development and talent strategy program. She initially led the initiative for the chamber and with key workforce partners, and continues to serve on the steering committee as the immediate past chair.

Rhonda previously served on the board of directors of the Tri-ED Foundation, including a term as chair; Covington Business Council; and Covington Business Council Foundation, including a term as chair. She was a member of the Northern Kentucky University (NKU) Foundation board of directors for more than 12 years, chaired Thomas More College's corporate campaign and is a founding member of Gateway Community & Technical College's Raise the Floor initiative. In addition, Rhonda has been active with United Way regional fundraising campaigns in Northern Kentucky, Cincinnati and Middletown, Ohio, and chaired the Northern Kentucky campaign in 2011.

She is a graduate of several regional and state leadership programs and has received several regional awards including United Way of Greater Cincinnati's 2016 Strengthening Our Region award and the Cincinnati Business Courier's 2018 Women Who Mean Business award.

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A native of southwest Ohio, Rhonda earned bachelor's degrees in political science and public administration from Miami University. She has two adult children and resides in Kenton County, Ky., with her husband.

Duke Energy, one of the largest energy holding companies in the United States, supplies and delivers electric services to approximately 7.7 million customers in the Southeast and Midwest. The company also distributes natural gas services to approximately 1.6 million customers in the Carolinas, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. Its commercial business operates a growing renewable energy portfolio across the United States. Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Duke Energy is a Fortune 150 company traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DUK.