

Austin Rouse serves as the Director of Business Recruitment for the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, overseeing a team of statewide business recruitment managers, as well as leading and directing the organization's efforts to attract new businesses to North Carolina. Austin's career in economic development spans over 15 years, with stops in Eastern North Carolina, Charlotte, Raleigh, and now at the state level at EDPNC. Austin joined EDPNC in 2015 and transitioned into Business Recruitment in 2018 where he became the lead recruiter and resident expert focused on the automotive and EV Battery sector. Throughout his time at EDPNC, Austin has led more than 60 economic development projects that have created more than 17,000 announced jobs and more than \$7.5 billion in capital investment. Austin is a native of Kinston and is a double Tar Heel having earned Bachelor's degrees in public policy and political science and a Master of Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Austin resides in Raleigh with his wife and two young sons.

