

# Miles S. Thomas

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## Professional Experience

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<b>Port of Benton</b>	<b>Director of Economic Development and Governmental Affairs</b>	<b>2020 – Present</b>
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As the Director of Economic Development and Governmental Affairs my primary focus is job creation, retention, and expansion. This position allows me to support the growth of advanced manufacturers, technology and innovation companies, logistics operators, and hospitality agribusiness companies in expanding their presence and ease of operation.

My passion is supporting entrepreneurship, identifying funding for physical expansion of innovation, and growing North Richland as the epicenter of technological advancement. This role also includes serving as the Executive Director of the Tri-Cities Research District and the Innovation Partnership Zone. During my tenure I've been responsible for:

- Launch of a completely redesigned Port website, curated around recruitment and public transparency
- Coordination of the Port's first complete Strategic Plan and Annual Action Strategy document
- Transition to a digital communications strategy, 159% growth in subscribers, and 130% growth in interaction while deploying an ongoing measurable outreach success report
- Implementation of an GIS based facilities management system

<b>Community Planning Resources</b>	<b>Principal Consultant</b>	<b>2015 – Present</b>
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Community Planning Resources is my personal consulting business created to develop creative solutions to policy conflicts while building positive community relationships. Core services include consultation to private business and public entities on land use, development, site selection, and market analysis. Our expertise emerged from more than a decade working on both sides of the table negotiating for community prosperity through a variety of public and private projects. Through this consulting business I have been involved in:

- Permitting assistance establishing a basis for non-traditional retail service delivery during COVID-19
- Marketing and recruitment of investment for an EB-5 and Opportunity Zone based hospitality project
- Deployment of a shared bicycle rental system, alongside a coordinated marketing campaign
- Launch of website and recruitment portal for a urban mixed-use development project

<b>City of Kennewick</b>	<b>Economic Development Manager</b>	<b>2018 – 2019</b>
<b>City of Richland, WA</b>	<b>Redevelopment Project Manager</b>	<b>2016 – 2018</b>
<b>City of Urbana, IL</b>	<b>Economic Development Specialist</b>	<b>2014 – 2015</b>
<b>N•Focus Planning &amp; Design</b>	<b>Planner III</b>	<b>2013 – 2014</b>
<b>Plexus Marketing Group</b>	<b>Marketing Consultant</b>	<b>2011 – 2016</b>

## Education and Specialization

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<b>University of Illinois</b>	<b>Master of Urban and Regional Planning</b> Specialization in Economic Development	<b>Conferred May 2016</b>
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<b>University of North Carolina at Charlotte</b>	<b>Bachelor of Arts in Architecture and Geography</b> Specialization in Urban Studies	<b>Conferred May 2013</b>
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- Certifications in Zoning, Planning, and Floodplain Management from the NC State School of Government
- Six years combined experience in Urban Design and Economic Development with technical knowledge of AutoCAD, SPSS, ArcGIS, Rhino3D, SketchUp, Grasshopper Parametric, and several others.