

Christopherson Elected President of SCARC

Easley Mayor Chris Christopherson was elected president of the S. C. Association of Regional Councils (SCARC) at the group's annual statewide conference held November 24-26 in Myrtle Beach.

Christopherson, a member of the Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG) Board of Directors since 1991, has represented the ACOG on the statewide association for several years.

The SCARC is an association of the ten regional councils of governments (COGs) in South Carolina, which provide a variety of services to local governments and state and federal agencies. The Association's full membership consists of over 400 primarily elected officials from across the state.

As president of the Association, Christopherson plans to work closely with Governor-Elect Sanford's new administration and the S. C. General Assembly to ensure that regional councils of governments are recognized as integral partners in strengthening our state's economy and making the most efficient use of our scarce fiscal resources.

At the annual conference, Christopherson told the group "I believe the councils of governments are the unsung heroes of economic growth and a better quality of life in South Carolina. I want to find a way to show our collective impact to the Legislature and the new administration."

Christopherson also plans to work with the ten individual regional councils to strengthen the roles of COG board members. "The heart of a re-



Easley Mayor Chris Christopherson, recently elected president of SCARC, addresses that group's annual conference in Myrtle Beach

gional council is a strong, involved board of directors," Christopherson said. "I want to encourage our boards to be advocates for the regional councils they represent and for the concept of regional cooperation. Intergovernmental cooperation is really what we're all about."

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