

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Mike Jackson is a skilled communicator and business development professional with an entrepreneurial history.

In his first career, Mike was an NBC News Correspondent based in Chicago; and a Chicago TV News anchor at WMAQ and WLS. He left broadcasting to establish his own business in Chicago, Jackson Communications Management, Inc. He trained executives in presentation skills and served as producer, host, and moderator for strategic planning retreats and satellite teleconferences for corporations such as Motorola and Kraft Foods; and for organizations such as the American Library Association and National Technological University.

He and his wife relocated from Chicago to Columbus, OH, where Mike transitioned to government leadership and served as Marketing Director for the state's Economic Development Office.

In 2003, moving to Lee County, he served as Cape Coral's Economic Development Director. He established the Cape's first SBDC satellite office; and as the city's chief marketing officer, designed and implemented marketing campaigns that won top national and state awards and promoted the development of millions of new square feet of commercial space.

He chaired the Lee County workforce housing taskforce, served on the board of the Southwest Florida Regional Technology Partnership, and on the board of the Southwest Florida Public Relations Association.

Mike currently serves as President of the Board of CareerSource Southwest Florida, recognized as one of the most effective of Florida's 24 non-profit workforce development boards, connecting employers with qualified, skilled talent, and Floridians with employment and career development opportunities.

Mike has a BA in Political Science and History from the University of Illinois and an MBA from Northwestern University. He is Accredited in Public Relations (APR). He is a private pilot, and licensed boat captain and will soon earn his black belt in Shotokan Karate. He lives in Cape Coral with his wife, Sally, who is a retired executive at Lee Health System.

