

Biography



Peter Skillern, Executive Director

Peter Skillern is the Executive Director of the Community Reinvestment Association of North Carolina a nonprofit agency that uses social entrepreneurship and advocacy for corporate responsibility to realize its mission of promoting and protecting community wealth.

Under Skillern's leadership the agency has created, produced and distributed *Nuestro Barrio*, a Spanish language telenovella that provides financial education in a soap opera format. The television series is commercially successful and has had national distribution with availability in 50 million households. The agency owns shares in 50 financial institutions for the purpose of asset growth and shareholder advocacy to promote fair lending practices. More than \$40 billion of lending commitments to low income communities has been secured as a result of the agency's work. Skillern's exposure in the media involves radio interviews including National Public Radio, numerous television appearances, and coverage in more than 250 print outlets including USA Today and the New York Times.

Skillern is a member of the Eisenhower Fellowship and as the United States representative to the program's International Advisory Council he has studied political, economic and cultural systems in Ireland, Mexico, Turkey and Singapore with a focus on the cross disciplinary aspects of social change. He is also a William Friday Fellow for Human Relations, a leadership program based in North Carolina.

Skillern graduated with Highest Honors from the University of California at Santa Cruz and earned a Masters in City and Regional Planning with a specialization in Real Estate Development with the Kenan Flagler School of Business at UNC Chapel Hill.

He co-authored the book, *Too Much Month at the End of the Paycheck Payday Lending in North Carolina* in partnership with the UNC Center for Community Capitalism. He produced *This is My Home: Manufactured Housing Challenges and Opportunities* published by Carolina Academic Press. Skillern has written numerous policy pieces on housing, community development and financial issues.

Prior to his current position, Skillern worked with the National Low Income Housing Coalition and was the Executive Director of the Durham Affordable Housing Coalition where he raised and packaged millions of dollars for affordable housing development.

Skillern's work has won regional and national awards including: the City of Durham's Affordable Housing Award; the News and Observer Tarheel of the Week; the National Fair Housing Alliance Award for Outstanding Contribution to Civil Rights; the National Community Reinvestment Coalition James Rouse Award for Exemplary Contribution to Economic Justice.

