

Clarke Thompson
Manager, International Department
South Carolina Department of Commerce

Clarke Thompson, Manager of the International Department at Commerce, leads a team of international business professionals who facilitate overseas export opportunities for South Carolina companies primarily through the use of international trade missions. These trade missions provide an opportunity for businesses, educational professionals, economic development professionals and governmental leaders to travel to foreign markets and collaborate with their peers and potential customers.

Additionally, his team serves as the first line of diplomacy for government leaders and organizations around the world who want to create commercial relationships between their countries and South Carolina. Commerce's export program has been recognized by two national organizations as one of leading state trade program's in the country. The coveted President's E-Award for Export Service was awarded to the program by the U.S. Department of Commerce, while the Council for Urban Economic Development (CUED) chose the program as the recipient of their State Export Trade Program Gold Award.

Clarke received his bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina in 1986 and later completed a special program of study on international marketing at the American Graduate (Thunderbird) School of International Management in Glendale, Arizona. Prior to becoming the program's director in 1997, Clarke served as the assistant director of the program for 6 years.

Clarke served as the 2005 General Chairman of the 32nd Annual South Carolina International Trade Conference which is held each May in Charleston, and serves on the boards of the South Carolina World Trade Center, the South Carolina Export Consortium, the Executive Committee of the Midlands International Trade Association, and the South Carolina District Export Council. In 2004 he was appointed by Governor Mark Sanford to the newly created South Carolina Commission on International Cooperation & Agreements, designed to support the state's international business and governmental relationships. Additionally, he is actively involved in the South Carolina Economic Developers Association, the State International Development Organizations and several other national and regional international trade organizations.

Clarke was born in Charleston but grew up most of his years in Rock Hill. He is married to the former Neyle Scoggin of Mt. Pleasant and they live in Irmo with their 2 children, Emily (16) and Stuart (13).