

Bob Saunders Graduates from Rural Economic Development Institute

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Brooks Pierce partner Bob Saunders recently graduated from the [Rural Economic Development Institute \(REDI\)](#), an intensive, three-month training program designed for rural community leaders.

REDI works with leaders in rural areas to improve their leadership skills and educate them on new economic and development strategies to address issues faced by their communities. Nearly 1,200 rural leaders have completed the program since it began in 1989. This year's graduating class included elected officials, economic development professionals, healthcare professionals and civic leaders.

Saunders focuses his practice primarily on tax-exempt organizations, both charitable and non-charitable, advising them on tax issues, estate planning, and tax-exempt financing. He serves as general counsel to the North Carolina Rural Center, counseling the Center on tax and governance issues. He also served as chairman of the board of directors for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce in 2015 and currently serves as chairman of the Carrboro Economic Sustainability Commission.