



Allen M. Thomas
President & CEO, North Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association (NCRLA)

Allen Thomas serves as President & CEO of the North Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association (NCRLA), the voice of the state's hospitality industry. In this role, he works to protect, promote, and advance the diverse interests of an industry that generates more than \$38.5 billion in annual sales and employs nearly 11% of the state's workforce.

A businessman, entrepreneur, public servant, native of North Carolina, and raised in a family of hotel and hospitality properties, Thomas brings broad leadership experience across public and private sectors.

He was appointed by the President of the United States as Regional Administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration, overseeing programs in eight Southeastern states including North Carolina.

As a three-term mayor of Greenville—one of North Carolina's largest cities—he led post-recession recovery, championed infrastructure expansion, and spurred robust economic growth, earning White House recognition for community engagement in public safety.

In business, Thomas co-founded IQMax, a healthcare technology startup serving 160 facilities in 36 states and later revitalized the North Carolina Global TransPark as Executive Director. He also served as Executive Vice President of FlyExclusive, one of the nation's largest private aviation operators, helping guide its growth to more than 850 employees and 100 jets.

Thomas earned his MBA from UNC-Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School and a BS in Business Administration from East Carolina University. He also completed executive education at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government as a Cahn Fellowship recipient.

Above all, his proudest roles are being a husband to his wife Janet and being a father to daughters Ava and Holly, and son Chase.