



Tom Ackert, Executive Director

Tom Ackert earned two diplomas at the University of Central Florida and began his career with Orange County in 1977. He has served as the Executive Director for the Orange County Convention Center since 1991. While proud of his participation in the development of this world class facility and the surrounding hotel, entertainment and retail infrastructure, Tom is more proud of the quality of the destination team that has been assembled. The staff of the OCCC is an outstanding group of service professionals, working daily with equally qualified team members at Visit Orlando, and those at the hotels, attractions, and other suppliers to the business travel industry.

Tom previously worked as Assistant County Administrator for the County. In this role, he was responsible for five divisions of the County Government, including the Fire Department, Corrections, Public Utilities, Public Works and the OCCC. While responsible for various activities including the completion of major construction projects, the development of organizations and people to better support the varied missions and goals of the groups he worked with was a more important focus.

Orange County employees are the most generous supporters of United Way charities among public agencies in the State of Florida. Tom has been a member of the United Way Leadership Club for two decades, and served as the Co-Chair of the County Campaign for two terms. Tom served on many committees, task forces and boards both locally and nationally for charitable, educational or non-profit activities. He was a member of the formative advisory board to the University of Central Florida on the creation of a school of hospitality, which helped lead to the creation of the Rosen College of Hospitality at UCF.

Tom is or has been involved in many professional organizations including IAEE, PCMA, and ASAE. He served on the PCMA Standards and Recommended Practices committee, which later evolved into the CIC "APEX" initiative. He served on the Board of CEIR, and currently serves with the Exhibition Industry Foundation. In the late 1990's he was elected to the AIPC Board of Directors, providing him valuable insight to the operations and techniques of congress and trade centers around the world. He was an elected member of the Board of Directors of a modeling and simulation company, and is a current member of the National Center for Simulation.