Doug Henton – Chairman and CEO, Collaborative Economics

Doug Henton has more than 30 years of experience in economic and community development at the national, regional, state, and local levels. Doug is nationally recognized for his work in bringing industry, government, education, research, and community leaders together around specific collaborative projects to improve regional competitiveness.

He was project manager for the start-up of the Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network, an innovative, results-oriented regional economic development alliance. He continues to serve as Joint Venture’s economist, and is the architect of Joint Venture’s annual Index of Silicon Valley.

Doug is on the Management Team for the California Economic Summit, California’s first-ever Summit harnessing the power of regional collaboration to spur economic innovation and growth. He is a consultant to Next 10 for the development of the Green Innovation Index, and regional coordinator for Clean Economy Solutions, a national organization helping to advance America’s economy region by region. In California, Doug helped launch collaborative regional efforts in Sacramento, Fresno and San Diego, and nationally, he is consultant to the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, developing their annual Innovation Index. Doug has also advised Chicago Metropolis 2020, the Potomac Conference and Arizona Partnership for a New Economy.

Doug founded Collaborative Economics in July 1993 after a decade as assistant director of SRI International’s Center for Economic Competitiveness. At SRI he led major state-level strategy development projects in Arizona, Florida, and California. Internationally, Doug directed major projects on the economic future of Hong Kong, the technopolis strategy in Japan, and regional development in China.


Doug holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and economics from Yale University and a master of public policy degree from the University of California, Berkeley.