

Lynn Thurston: Professional Profile



Lynn Thurston is globally engaged in business strategy, innovation and economic development. She has worked with entrepreneurs and economic development professionals to ignite innovation through training and research support in more than 30 countries around the world.

Professional Credentials

Lynn started working with entrepreneurs in Indonesia while completing her PhD in urban and regional planning at the University of California, Berkeley. Her dissertation research examined job creation in small-scale enterprises. After completing additional job creation research at the East-West Center in Hawaii, Lynn moved to Ottawa to join the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). While at IDRC, she worked with researchers on a range of business initiatives in export processing zones, incubators and in stand-alone business environments. She was also a member of the Canadian government's Advisory Board on Community Futures, an initiative aimed at strengthening community-based economic development planning in single industry towns across Canada. Lynn has also worked with the Small Business Administration in the United States. Working in a Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in the Finger Lakes Region of Upstate New York, she assisted entrepreneurs with their start-up and expansion plans. As a frequent speaker and executive coach to economic development officials and industry leaders, Lynn's strengths are in economic development planning, technology commercialization and international marketing.

In addition to her PhD, Lynn holds a Master's degree in Business from Queen's University in Canada. She lives in Naples, New York in the Finger Lakes wine region.