

# Mark Lesko

**Vice President for Economic Development and Executive Dean of the Center for Entrepreneurship at Hofstra University**

Hempstead, NY, US

Entrepreneurship, start-ups, economic development

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## Description

Before joining Hofstra, Mark Lesko was Executive Director of Accelerate Long Island, a collaboration of Long Island research institutions to accelerate the formation of a regional innovation-based economy. As Executive Director, Mark oversaw the \$1 million Accelerate Long Island Seed Fund/Long Island Emerging Technologies Fund that invested in nine technology-based startup companies. Under Lesko's leadership, Accelerate Long Island also offered mentorship support for startup companies and engaged in a variety of activities that supported the growth of Long Island's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Prior to joining Accelerate Long Island, Mark Lesko was the Supervisor of the Town of Brookhaven – New York State's second-largest Town with 486,000 residents – for over three years. As Supervisor, Mark became a regional leader on the issue of economic development and served on Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council for Long Island. Prior to serving as Brookhaven Town Supervisor, Mark was a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Department of Justice for ten years in Washington D.C., Brooklyn and Long Island. Mark served as Deputy Chief of the Long Island Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York. As Deputy Chief, he oversaw all federal criminal prosecutions on Long Island and was the Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property (CHIP) crimes coordinator. Mark also personally prosecuted some of Long Island's most noteworthy federal cases, including the Muttontown "slave" case and the Symbol Technologies corporate accounting case. Mark also served as a prosecutor in the homicide/major crimes section in the U.S. Attorney's office for the District of Columbia. Prior to joining the Department of Justice, Mark was a corporate litigator with large law firms in Pittsburgh, PA and Washington, D.C. In Pittsburgh, Mark helped establish the Steel Valley Enterprise Zone Advisory Committee, an organization formed to assist economically depressed communities affected by the closure of steel mills. Mark is a graduate of Yale University, where he was a quarterback on the football team, and he received his law degree from Georgetown University Law School.

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## Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Consumer Services, Political Organization, Financial Services

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## Topics

Real Estate Studies, Economic Development, Politics, Economically Depressed Community Aid, Entrepreneurship

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## Affiliations

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## Education

**Georgetown University**  
J.D.

**Yale University**  
B.A. History

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