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Over 150 Economic Development Professionals and Organizations from 33 States Recognized During IEDC's 2015 Annual Conference

WASHINGTON, DC (October 13, 2015): The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) recognized its Leadership Award winners during its Annual Conference held Oct. 4-7 in Anchorage, Alaska.

IEDC recognizes more than 150 of the industry's best individuals and organizations for their efforts in creating positive change in their respective communities. Winners, who come from across the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada, Hong Kong and New Zealand, have demonstrated to the panel of judges that they are at the forefront of the economic development profession.

The following leadership awards were presented to both government and professional leaders: Young Economic Developer of the Year to Peter Tokar III, director of Economic Development for the City of Alpharetta, GA; the Jeffrey A. Finkle Organizational Leadership Award to Gerald Gordon, Ph.D., president and CEO of Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, in Vienna, VA; the Leadership Award for Public Service to Mayor Edward Zabrocki of Tinley Park, IL; the Citizen Leadership Award to Jeffrey Thurman, president and CEO of Community First Solutions of Hamilton, Ohio; the Institutional Leadership Award to Todd Schwarz, Ph.D., executive vice president and chief academic officer of the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls.

IEDC also presented two lifetime achievement awards: the Chairman's Award for Lifetime Achievement in Economic Development to Robin Roberts Krieger, FM, HLM, vice president of Business & Industry Training & Economic Development at Oklahoma State University, and the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Economic Development in Honor of Edward deLuca to Dennis Coleman, CEcD, FM, HLM, former CEO of St. Louis Economic Development Partnership in Missouri.

Further, IEDC confers Fellow Member (FM) status upon active members who have made significant contributions to the economic development profession through their service to the organization or academic endeavors. The following professionals were given FM designations: JoAnn Crary, CEcD, president of Saginaw Future, Inc., in Saginaw, MI; Ivan Baker, CEcD, AICP, director of Economic Development at Tinley Park Economic Development in Illinois; J. Vann Cunningham, former assistant vice president of economic development at BNSF Railway Company in Fort Worth, Texas; Michael Langley, president and CEO of Greater MSP in Saint Paul, MN; and Craig Richard, CEcD, president and CEO of Invest Atlanta.

The Honorary Life Member (HLM) designation is given by IEDC to active or former members who have gone above and beyond their responsibilities as economic development professionals and served as teachers, mentors and inspirations. It was presented to both JoAnn Crary, FM,

CEcD, president of Saginaw Future, Inc., in Saginaw, MI and to Daniel Gundersen, FM, chief operating officer at Virginia Economic Development Partnership in Richmond.

See the full list of categories and award winners at http://bit.ly/1hCL9rO.

IEDC awarded 156 gold, silver and bronze awards in the following categories: General Purpose Print Brochure, Special Purpose Print Brochure, Newsletter, General Print Promotion, Magazine General Purpose Website, Special Purpose Website, Multimedia and Video Promotion, Paid Advertisement Campaign, Entrepreneurship, Neighborhood Redevelopment, Annual Report, Special Event, New Media, Multi-Year Economic Development, Business Retention & Expansion - Single Event, Business Retention & Expansion - 3 Years or More, Sustainable & Green Development, Real Estate Development, Public-Private Partnerships, Partnerships with Educational Institutions, Regionalism & Cross-Border Collaboration, Human Capital and Responding to Globalization.

This year, IEDC awarded Fox Cities Corporation with its annual Best in Show award for its Talent Upload program. Best in Show is chosen by the Awards Advisory Committee as a standout among the Excellence in Economic Development Gold Award winners. View the entire list of winners at http://bit.ly/1LLVjEH.

About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,600 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. When we succeed, our members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions. www.iedcONLINE.org

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