



INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

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Dear Colleagues:

Today I become IEDC's new president and CEO. I am humbled and honored to lead this organization, but I am certain that in partnership with the IEDC team, board and members, we will continue to expand upon the foundation built over the past 96 years. I want to say a special thanks to Jeff Finkle, who not only led the IEDC for decades, but also has helped to further the profession in ways few others have achieved.

As I get underway, I plan to spend plenty of time getting to know economic development leaders across the country, hearing what issues and opportunities are being seen and felt in this industry and learning how IEDC can continue to build upon its strong foundation of service and progress.

As the nation continues to confront the COVID-19 pandemic, economic developers are facing unprecedented challenges in many areas, while also rising to the challenge in unique and inspiring ways. It is clear to me that our profession will be forever changed and it is just as clear that each of you are meeting these challenges with inspiring professionalism, dedication and innovation.

Following your example, our primary role at IEDC will be to support you and your colleagues with programming, research, advocacy and professional development resources, along with leadership in helping to build the new economic development approaches necessary to complement the successful programs already happening across the country.

IEDC will continue to help economic developers build capacity within your organizations, foster greater resiliency in your economies and create new strategies and partnerships in your regions. IEDC will collaborate, listen and lead based on your input and engagement. As your work continues to become more dynamic, IEDC will be the leading voice in Washington for policies, programs and resources that support your efforts and the practice of economic development.

I see IEDC as evolving into the national engine for driving more equitable economic outcomes in communities of all sizes. Members can expect a continuation of our laser-like focus on improving diversity, equity and inclusion in economic development. IEDC's Equity in Economic Development Playbook and Fellowship Program are powerful initiatives in that direction. We remain committed to helping address these issues, holding space for conversations and



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advancing new ideas, with the end goal of driving toward more equitable economic outcomes for everyone.

My experience at the federal, state and local level has shown me that economic developers are at the forefront of an ever-changing landscape in their regions, with the opportunity to engage future generations in ensuring their economic vitality. Those experiences sharpened for me the imperative of collaborating with communities to expand opportunities and create a welcoming environment for businesses and entrepreneurs, for building from the ground up and building the capacity of local leaders to take on their challenges and capture opportunities. I believe strongly that building relationships is the key to success at every level, and I am committed to engaging, listening and collaborating at every opportunity.

IEDC is the foremost leader in economic development, and the opportunity to build upon its success is unlike any other. It is one that I take very seriously, and I am excited to start. I look forward to working with members far and wide to advance prosperity and help build communities where all people can thrive.

Nathan Ohle
CEO
International Economic Development Council