January 9, 2018

Dear Fellow Leaders in Economic Development:

It is my pleasure to greet you as the 2018 chairman of IEDC’s board of directors. It is truly an honor to serve in this capacity, and I look forward to contributing even more to the profession as we go forward into 2018. I offer my immediate predecessor, GREATER MSP CEO Michael Langley, FM, HLM a huge congratulations for his leadership. 2017 was good to IEDC, and for that we have Michael, the rest of our board, staff, and members to thank.

2018 is already off to a great start. The first must-attend event of the year is the Leadership Summit, January 28-30 in Las Vegas, Nevada. If you have not already done so, register today! This year’s agenda will cover the following topics:

- Chasing the Big Deal – The Amazon HQ2 deal will be discussed
- ED Leadership Essentials: How to Influence and Persuade
- Mindfulness for the Effective Leader
- Your Organizational Leadership Questions Answered
- Economic Development Leadership Essentials to Recover in a Time of Crisis

But there’s so much more – access the full program here.

While registration for the Leadership Summit is exclusive, there are many other IEDC events throughout the year which your staff will benefit from attending. Take advantage of the learning opportunity of webinars, training courses, and conferences, and encourage them to begin or complete their requirements for the CEcD exam. There is something for every professional level. Here are quick links to IEDC’s offerings.

Conferences
Courses
Webinars
CEcD FAQs

One other new program IEDC will be offering in 2018 is the opportunity to bring customized and localized economic development training to your community leaders.
If you’ve ever wondered how you can turn your Mayor, county leaders and other local officials into champions for economic development, we can show you how. Contact IEDC’s Knowledge Management department [here](#).

In addition to the annual [State of the Profession](#) talk by President Jeff Finkle during the Leadership Summit, I will share my own objectives for 2018 and how you can help us bring them to fruition. See some of what I will discuss in this latest edition of ED Now.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, and I look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas later this month!

Sincerely,

![Signature]

Craig Richard, CEcD, FM
President and CEO
Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation
Tampa, FL
2018 IEDC Board Chair

Twitter: IEDC has created a twitter account for board chairs - @ChairIEDC. Find and follow me there.