



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Leadership Summit Features Renowned Guests**  
*Local and National Officials Speak at Economic Developers' Gathering*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** (January 25, 2016) — The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) annual Leadership Summit is underway, and approximately 400 economic development executives have converged on New Orleans to discuss restoring resiliency to local economies.

The sessions cover a host of pressing topics to the economic development industry, and speakers are executives who span the range of economic development activities and its allied industries.

Session keynote speakers:

- Maura Donahue: past chair of the Board of Directors, United States Chamber of Commerce
- Charles Groat, Ph.D.: president & CEO, The Water Institute of the Gulf
- Christopher Masingill: federal co-chairman, Delta Regional Authority
- Patrick J. Quinlan, M.D.: CEO, Ochsner International Services and executive director, Center for Community Wellness and Health Policy
- Monty Sullivan, Ph.D.: president, Louisiana Community and Technical College System

The following New Orleans executives served as panelists in a Leadership and Resiliency discussion during the Sunday Opening Plenary Session:

- Brenda Bertus: CEO, St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- Jerry Bologna, CEcD: executive director, JEDCO
- Henry Coaxum Jr.: president, Coaxum Enterprises, Inc.
- Barbara Johnson: principal, The Johnson Group, LLC
- Michael Olivier, CEcD, FM, HLM: CEO, Louisiana Committee of 100 for Economic Development, Inc.
- Tish Williams: executive director, Hancock County Chamber of Commerce

**About the International Economic Development Council**

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,700 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. IEDC's members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities and improve the quality of life in their regions. [www.iedcONLINE.org](http://www.iedcONLINE.org).



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