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**500 Economic Development Leaders Discuss Inclusion, Creative Industries & Managing
Generational Differences in the Workplace**

Trending topics in both economic development and leadership covered at IEDC's Leadership Summit

JACKSONVILLE, FL (Feb. 7, 2017) -- More than 500 senior-level economic developers left Jacksonville on Tuesday with discussion ideas and new professional contacts at the close of the International Economic Development Council's (IEDC) annual 2017 Leadership Summit.

Attendees participated in discussions on trending topics in economic development, such as gentrification and inclusive economic development, creative industries, millennial entrepreneurs, generational differences in the workplace and regional economic development.

Throughout the event, a major theme addressed by keynote speakers, session speakers and others was equity and economic inclusion as a focus of the profession.

"At its best, economic development is inherently inclusive," Amy Liu, VP and Director of the Metro Policy Program at the Brookings Institute said in her keynote address. "This is your moment to build a more inclusive economy, to adapt to new realities."

"Set your table and invite everyone. Then don't just talk about your issues, but listen to theirs," Cecilia Mowatt, President of Strategies in Site, Inc. said in a concurrent session on gentrification.

Jeffrey Finkle, CEcD, CEO of IEDC, shared results of the 2017 annual State of the Economic Development Industry at the conference. He announced that 81 percent of survey respondents ranked equity and economic inclusion as moderately to highly important.

Attendees were also addressed by Mark Lamping, President of the Jacksonville Jaguars, on strategic partnerships and their importance in successful economic development.

"The problem that usually occurs in our industry is the breakdown of the public-private partnership," Lamping said.

Some topic discussions were centered around leadership techniques and best practices. This included sessions about managing employees of different generations, establishing work-life balance and employee wellness.

The Economic Development Research Partners, IEDC's in-house think tank, released their latest report on regional strategies at a concurrent session during the conference. "[Organizing for Success: Regional Economic Development](#)," presents research findings on the benefits and challenges of regional approaches to economic development and provides case studies of successful partnerships and initiatives.



Also announced at Leadership Summit was the release of the [2017 Salary and Demographic Survey](#), a comprehensive report of data collected from more than 3,600 economic development professionals. The data included information on compensation, professional activities and demographics.

In addition to the wide range of topics covered in concurrent and plenary sessions, attendees had the opportunity to see economic development in action through tours of the St. Johns River, Mayo Clinic and Cecil Commerce Center. The conference ran from Jan. 29-31. The 2018 IEDC Leadership Summit will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada from January 28-30.

About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,000 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.