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**IEDC Announces Dates for 2017 Economic Development Week - May 8-13, 2017**  
**National celebration brings awareness to the economic development and professionals**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 9, 2017) — The second annual Economic Development Week will happen May 8-13, 2017. The dates were announced by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), creator and coordinator of the national event.

Inspired by IEDC Board leadership in 2016, the goal of Economic Development Week (EDW) is to highlight to the significant contributions that economic development professionals make to their communities, to increase awareness for local programs that create jobs, to advance career development opportunities, and to increase the quality of life for all citizens. EDW is a nationwide campaign that consists of events and online activities designed to highlight the importance of economic development taking place in the United States.

In 2016, more than 75 communities hosted events, many with local elected officials. Other communities created high-visibility social media campaigns.

Economic Development Week coincides with IEDC's 91<sup>st</sup> anniversary in 2017.

“This national event helps communities recognize economic development practitioners and shed light on their programs and their role in stimulating job creation by businesses in their community. This program helps us all share information on two priorities; informing community leaders about the value of economic development, and ensuring that everyone in our communities have the opportunity to succeed through access to a good job.” -F. Michael Langley FM, CEO, Greater MSP, Minneapolis – St. Paul, MN, IEDC 2017 Board Chair.

“We are excited to announce the return of Economic Development Week in 2017. This celebration is an excellent way to unite members of the profession across the country and share success stories.” – Jeffrey Finkle, CEcD, President and CEO of IEDC.

IEDC has created guidelines and tools for communities to refer to when promoting Economic Development Week to their community, including

- Event ideas
- How to create blog posts and newsletter articles on economic development
- Samples of resolutions and proclamations



- Samples of press releases
- Social media campaign ideas

These resources and suggestions for Economic Development Week, including a Celebration Toolkit, can be found at [www.iedconline.org/edw](http://www.iedconline.org/edw).

### **About the International Economic Development Council**

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a nonprofit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic wellbeing 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). ###