



For Immediate Release
March 26, 2015

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IEDC Releases Report on Workforce Development Strategies for Economic Developers

WASHINGTON, DC (March 26, 2015) – The [International Economic Development Council](#) (IEDC) announces the release of “[Shifting Workforce Development into High Gear: How Economic Developers Lead Workforce System Alignment](#).” The report was produced under the auspices of IEDC’s [Economic Development Research Partners](#) (EDRP) program that serves as a think-tank within the organization.

For professionals in the field of economic development, effective workforce development is vitally important. IEDC’s Chair JoAnn Crary, CECD, President of Saginaw Future Inc. in Saginaw, MI, notes “This report offers explanations and solutions to the workforce issue, helping economic developers take a lead role in crafting strategic approaches that will grow a talented workforce to help retain, attract and expand business.”

“[Shifting Workforce Development into High Gear: How Economic Developers Lead Workforce System Alignment](#)” provides a comprehensive understanding of how workforce development is carried out and how economic developers can shape their role in this important task. The paper provides an overview of the players in workforce development, a survey of economic developers’ approach to the issue, five case studies of organizations making an impact, and recommendations for how to best influence workforce development on a regional, state, and local scale.

One of several case studies within the report that exemplifies an effective workforce strategy is the partnership between the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County (WDC) and the Economic Development Council of Seattle and King County (EDC). As the leading community organizations concentrated on workforce and economic development for the Seattle region, they have collaborated on several projects, including securing grants through the Washington State Department of Commerce to fund on-site job trainings. These grants, ranging from \$100,000 to \$200,000, have been a useful business retention and attraction tool for the region. WDC and EDC have also strengthened federal resources to improve their aerospace sector. By working together, the two organizations ensure sustainable business practices for their community and its generations to come.

The report is available from IEDC to nonmembers for \$60.00. IEDC members can download the report at no cost at www.iedconline.org.

About the International Economic Development Council

The [International Economic Development Council](#) (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,500 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. When we succeed, our members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions.

About the Economic Development Research Partners

The [Economic Development Research Partners](#) (EDRP) program is an exclusive membership level of IEDC, which supports practice-oriented research. The publications developed under EDRP's guidance and sponsorship, are designed to increase the knowledge base of the economic development profession and help practitioners navigate through today's rapidly changing economy. Through the EDRP program, IEDC is taking its mission to a new level: to assist practitioners in successfully competing in the global economy, increasing prosperity for communities at an accelerated pace, and empowering economic development professionals to better define their vision and value.