



For Immediate Release  
April 1, 2015

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### **Federal Economic Development Forum Concludes with in-depth Discussion On the Future of Workforce Development**

**WASHINGTON, DC (April 1, 2015)** – The [International Economic Development Council's](#) (IEDC) Federal Economic Development Forum concluded yesterday with an in-depth discussion on the future of workforce development with experts representing federal agencies, higher education, and advocacy groups. The annual Forum was held at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View, in Arlington, VA.

“The future prosperity of our nation depends on the skills of our workforce,” former Michigan Governor and President of the Business Roundtable John Engler stated.

Also participating in the discussion were thought-leaders:

- Joe May, Chancellor, Dallas County Community College District, Dallas, TX
- Dr. Roderick McDavis PhD, President, Ohio University, Athens, OH
- Eric Seleznow, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Employment & Training Administration, Department of Labor, Washington, D.C.
- Johan Uvin, Acting Assistant Secretary Career, Technical & Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.
- Andy Van Kleunen, Chief Executive Officer, National Skills Coalition, Washington, D.C.

The panelists praised Congress for passing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, which creates a framework for constructive cooperation among various federal workforce development actors. The legislation is indicative of the high-priority workforce development represents to the nation's economy and its bi-partisan support among policymakers. At the local level, panelists stressed the importance for economic developers to act as conveners among businesses, workforce boards, institutes of higher education, and other interested parties.

The session was moderated by Todd Greene, Vice President of Community and Economic Development Research and Policy at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Georgia. He emphasized the importance of attending this event every year, saying “Despite cuts in federal funding, federal programs are still integral to successful economic development. Understanding the nuances of these programs and their application to local economies is an important success component.”

#### **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. Visit our website at [www.iedconline.org](http://www.iedconline.org).