



INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

The Power of Knowledge and Leadership

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Media Release

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International Economic Development Council Presents Deputy Secretary of Commerce, the Honorable Dr. Rebecca M. Blank, with the 2013 Federal Leadership in Economic Development Programs Award

WASHINGTON, DC (April 23, 2013) - The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) presented the Honorable Dr. Rebecca M. Blank with its 2013 Federal Leadership in Economic Development Programs Award, on Monday, April 15, at the Westin Alexandria Hotel, during its Federal Economic Development Forum.

As Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce during a period of national fiscal turmoil, Dr. Rebecca Blank has been a vital proponent for the economic prosperity of the United States. Serving first as Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs, Deputy Secretary, and twice as Acting Secretary of Commerce, Dr. Blank has worked to rebuild the American manufacturing industry, promoted export growth, and brought foreign investment to communities across the country.

Under Dr. Blank's leadership, the Department of Commerce has created programs that support President Obama's "Make America a Magnet for Jobs by Investing in Manufacturing" plan. These programs focus on assisting local communities with effectively planned economic development projects and investments in American-made technologies. The Department of Commerce has also supported manufacturing initiatives during Dr. Blank's tenure through the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Through her direction of EDA, Dr. Blank has provided national leadership aimed at advancing economic growth in regions across the United States. EDA has been at the forefront of the effort to promote competitiveness and build resiliency in disaster-impacted communities, including the Gulf Coast region following the Deepwater Horizon BP oil spill.

In 2012, Dr. Blank announced that the United States reached record high exports and reduced the trade deficit by over \$38 billion. This was, in great part, accomplished due to the Department of Commerce's commitment to President Obama's National Export Initiative (NEI). As a component of the NEI, Dr. Blank re-chartered the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RE&EE) Advisory Committee and appointed 37 private-sector representatives to the committee. Originally chartered in 2010, the RE&EE Advisory Committee aims to improve economic competitiveness in renewable and efficient energy via foreign direct investments and access to new capital.

The Department of Commerce is also home to SelectUSA, a program that works to promote foreign investment in local economies throughout the United States. Under Dr. Blank's leadership, SelectUSA and the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) have solidified a formal relationship that will act as a blueprint for collaboration for many years to come.

Dr. Blank's dynamic leadership will have a lasting, positive impact on the economic development profession and the cause of job creation. For this reason, the International Economic Development Council is honored to bestow the 2013 Federal Leadership in Economic Development Programs Award upon Dr. Rebecca Blank.

About IEDC:

The [International Economic Development Council](#) is the premier independent non-profit, non-partisan membership and research organization devoted exclusively to the field of economic development. IEDC assists economic development professionals in creating high-quality jobs, developing vibrant communities and improving the quality of life in their regions. Serving more than 4,100 members, IEDC represents the largest network of economic development professionals in the world. IEDC provides a diverse range of services including conferences, certification, professional development, publications, research, advisory services, and public policy tracking. Visit www.iedconline.org to learn more.

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