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International Economic Development Week Celebration Kicks Off Next Week
Economic Development Organizations plan events & social campaigns throughout North America

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 5, 2017) — The second annual Economic Development Week (EDW), sponsored by the International Economic Development Council begins next week, May 8-13. Communities across North America and beyond are preparing social campaigns, events, publications and proclamations to recognize the event.

The goal of Economic Development Week (EDW) is to highlight the significant contributions and impacts that economic development and economic developers have on communities. The goal for economic development is to increase awareness for local programs that create, retain and expand jobs and to advance career development opportunities, and to increase the quality of life for all citizens. EDW is an international campaign that consists of events and online activities designed to highlight the importance of economic development taking place around the world.

“Economic Development encompasses many aspects of people’s lives within their communities; growth, prosperity and the hope for a better future for themselves, their families, their businesses and their communities. All of this is made possible by striving to achieve the most powerful force in our economy; good jobs,” said F. Michael Langley, CEO of Greater MSP, IEDC 2017 Chairman of the Board.

The recently released Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposal shows many federal economic development programs, such as the Economic Development Administration and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, face extreme cuts or outright elimination. This year’s EDW celebration will also have a heavy focus on spreading the importance of these programs and economic development on the whole.

“2017 Economic Development Week is the best way to increase awareness about the importance of economic development in a time of uncertainty. We hope participating communities will make a special effort to involve their elected leaders, and citizens in their celebrations.” said Jeffrey Finkle, CEcD, CEO of IEDC.

This year, many communities are expected to participate, including provinces in Canada. Cities have signed proclamations recognizing this year’s event, and garnered local press mentions for their planned celebrations.



A short list of Economic Development Organizations representing the following communities that intend to participate include:

- Canadian Provinces: Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan
- U.S. Cities: Hot Springs, Arkansas Las Vegas, NV; Richmond, VA; Buffalo, NY; Flagstaff, AZ; Seaside, CA, Brattleboro, VT; Mesquite, NV, Topeka, KS and many more
- U.S. States: The Honorable John Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado, recognized Economic Development Week in a [video](#). Economic Development Week was also featured on [Good Morning Utah](#)

IEDC 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.

In 2016, more than 75 communities hosted events such as open houses, networking events, seminars, tours of local businesses and special receptions, many with local elected officials. Other communities created high-visibility social media campaigns, and four dozen made proclamations recognizing EDW.

Also last year, IEDC created a special Economic Development Week category for the Innovation in Economic Development Awards, where standout campaigns were recognized. The award category is available again in 2017, and those interested in submitting must postmark their entry by June 2.

The official hashtags for 2017 Economic Development Week are #EconDevWeek and #EDW2017. Campaign notices will also be shared on IEDC social media sites, including: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Press interview requests for IEDC 2017 board chair, F. Michael Langley, FM and President and CEO for IEDC, Jeffrey Finkle, CECD, should be sent to [Akia Ashmond Brew](#).



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, publicprivate 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. ###