

For Immediate Release  
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### **IEDC Hosts Third-Annual Economic Development Week from May 7-12**

*Economic Development Organizations throughout North America, and other nations, will highlight how economic development created and sustains thriving communities.*

Washington, DC (May 7, 2018) – The third annual National Economic Development Week (EDW, #EconDevWeek #EDW2018), sponsored by the International Economic Development Council begins next week. Throughout North America, economic developers are preparing their organizations and teams to reach out to their legislators. This is a week where the possibilities and impact of local officials and businesses collaborating for the betterment of their communities are brought to the spotlight

*“This national event keeps growing because it has helped economic development practitioners share their community’s unique story and highlight details of their role in jobs creation for their community. Millions of impressions are created online and in print during National Economic Development Week, and it’s all for the greater good. At the end of the day, we should be able to show how lives are enhanced as a result of economic development. This year’s official hashtags are #EconDevWeek, #EDW2018 and #QualityOfLife and they are incredibly befitting! I’m looking forward to this year’s celebrations.”* Craig Richard, CEcD, FM, President and CEO, Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation and 2018 IEDC Board Chair

EDW highlights the impact of the economic development practice and profession in communities small and large, ranging from rural to urban. The event, which is a collection of local impact and educational campaigns, will consist of in-person and online activities, including information sessions, networking events, webinars, social media campaigns and more. Economic development emphasizes on increasing awareness of local programs, expands and retains job opportunities, and improves the quality of life for entire families.

IEDC will host a free webinar during EDW on May 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the historic tax bill which passed in December, 2017. Join us for the discussion as we explore the bill’s impact to local communities and discuss how legislators and the White House are managing both a spending bill and a Balanced Budget Amendment. This year’s keynote speaker will be: **Jeffrey A. Finkle, CEcD**, President & CEO, International Economic Development Council, Washington DC. [There is no cost to attend but registration is required.](#)

*“There’s a terrific story behind National Economic Development Week and it’s all about celebrating programs and services offered in local communities that generate wealth, increase the tax base and ultimately quality of life. Quite frankly, there are many opportunities for people to create and advance their own business plans but many are just not aware of what exists, even within their own community. EDW responds to this challenge, and IEDC makes it easy for communities to participate by creating comprehensive resources. Stemming from IEDC’s 2016 board chair, the original charge, which remains central to the week-long event, is celebrating the professionals who make it all happen - economic*

*developers, who are often behind the scenes hard at work for our communities. It is a great week that's all for the greater good of communities.” - Jeffrey Finkle, CEcD*

To defray the costs of participating, and to ensure that communities can take full advantage of the opportunity to increase awareness of their services and programs available to small and large businesses, IEDC provides dozens of resources for economic developers. A popular resource which IEDC has made available for the third year is a [Celebration Toolkit](#). The Toolkit is offered in several versions, including one for communities celebrating in the United States, North America and internationally for nations participating in other parts of the world. This year a [Spanish Toolkit](#) has been created to ensure that communities with large Spanish-speaking populations have the same free resources made available to other communities. Information about the celebration week may 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 non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,200 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. 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).