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**International Economic Development Week Celebration Kicks Off May 8**

*The International Economic Development Council's annual event will highlight events and social campaigns around the world*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 8, 2017) — Communities around the world are celebrating the second annual International Economic Development Week, which begins today and runs through Saturday, May 13.

The goal of Economic Development Week (EDW) is to highlight to the significant contributions that economic development makes to communities, to increase awareness for local programs that create jobs, to advance career development opportunities, and to increase the quality of life for all citizens. EDW is a nationwide 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.

In 2016, more than 75 communities hosted events, many with local elected officials. Other communities created high-visibility social media campaigns.

Economic Development Week coincides with IEDC’s 91<sup>st</sup> anniversary in 2017. This year, many communities are expected to participate, including provinces in Canada.

Some celebratory events include open houses, ribbon cuttings, lunch & learns, receptions and mixers. Communities have alerted their local press outlets and have garnered some coverage in anticipation of the event, including on Good Morning Utah. Elected officials have also been involved, including the Honorable John Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado, who made a video recognizing Economic Development Week in the state.

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](http://www.iedconline.org/edw).

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](mailto:akia@iedc.org).

### **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, 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). ###