



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 9, 2016

CONTACT: Akia (Garnett) Ashmond Brew
agbrew@iedconline.org

IEDC Celebrates Economic Development Week from May 8-14, 2016
Celebration to bring awareness for economic development

WASHINGTON, DC (May 9, 2016) — The International Economic Development Council is celebrating the world's first Economic Development Week. IEDC named May 8-14, 2016 Economic Development Week in correspondence with the anniversary of the organization's formation.

Economic Development Week is an opportunity to highlight the efforts and the importance of the economic development field. Economic Developers are responsible for generating economic growth, creating better jobs for residents and facilitating an improved quality of life.

"Economic Development Week was created to celebrate the difficult and often thankless work that economic developers do each day." Barry Matherly, CEcD, FM. Mr. Matherly is President & CEO for the Greater Richmond Partnership, Inc. Richmond, Virginia and Chairman of IEDC's Board of Directors.

Members and communities throughout the globe have already recognized Economic Development Week and planned events in their cities. IEDC released a [Celebration Guide](#) full of resources and suggestions to encourage communities to get involved.

Some examples of community celebrations from across the country include:

- Downtown Cleveland Partnership, City of Cleveland is hosting a press conference
- Greater MSP (Minneapolis - St. Paul, Minnesota) will host an event to recognize those executives and government officials involved in rolling out the Minnesota Medical Manufacturing Partnership (MMMP)
- The Economic Development Association of Minnesota is hosting a [Redevelopment Tour and CHS Field](#)
- Licking County, Ohio is running a two-day series titled [ED101 Connect](#) that will focus on educating the community about the profession
- The Greater Richmond Partnership is holding a four-day campaign: Monday 5/9: [Economic Development Partners Lunch & Learn](#) by Virginia Economic Development Partnership; Tuesday 5/10: [Regional Business Walk](#) by Business First; Wednesday 5/11: [Richmond Technology Awards Gala](#) at the Greater Richmond Convention Center and Thursday 5/12: [Awards Reception for National Travel & Tourism Week](#) by Richmond Region Tourism, Virginia Historical Society
- Anchorage, Alaska will host a [series of events](#), including a training course, press event, and luncheon on foreign investment in Alaska

A number of communities have collaborated with local press outlets, and created social and in person celebration campaigns:



- [Economic Development Week Proclaimed](#): Jackson County Economic Development: Jackson County Times - Journal
- [What is Economic Development](#) – York (Ohio) County Economic Alliance: OPED in YorkDispatch
There is no York County in Ohio
- [Evans Celebrates Economic Development Week](#): Economic Development Department, Evans, Colorado: The Tribune
- Arvada, Colorado - [Top 10 Economic Development Projects](#)
- St. Charles, Missouri – [Celebration video with elected official.](#) Also, [Learn about their Congratulations Reception](#)
- Sentinel Record – [Economic Development Week celebrated.](#) Hot Springs, Arkansas

A number of communities have passed resolutions officially recognizing Economic Development Week.

- Cleveland, Ohio
- St. Johns County, Florida
- Bay City, Michigan
- City of St. Charles, Missouri
- The City of Medina, Ohio
- Medina County, Ohio
- Wadsworth, Ohio
- Orofino, Idaho
- Hutto, Texas
- Yuma County, Arizona
- Jacksonville, Florida
- Benton County, Iowa

See resolutions from communities at www.iedconline.org/90years

To recognize effective celebration plans, IEDC has even launched a new award category for the 2016 [Excellence in Economic Development Awards](#) called Innovation in Economic Development Week Campaign. The activities that communities enter must have been completed during the week of May 8-14. Information about the awards can be seen at www.iedconline.org/awards2016.

IEDC has asked economic developers to do what they can do bring Economic Development Week to their community to spark the conversation about the importance of the field. To download the Celebration guide and to see what other communities have planned visit www.iedconline.org/90years.

About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,700 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.