



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Nation's Top Economic Developers to Hear About St. Louis Economic Base
Turnaround From Those who Led it**

Driving Innovation and Prosperity: Transforming Industries and Communities for the Next Economy

WASHINGTON, DC (May 24, 2012) – The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) will hold its Spring Conference, June 10-12, 2012, at the Hilton St. Louis Ballpark in St. Louis, MO. Themed *Driving Innovation and Prosperity*, this conference will prepare economic developers to help lead the transformation of their communities' industries; to attract, retain, and grow new firms and jobs; and to diversify their communities' economies.

Like many major industrial hubs, St. Louis experienced significant decline in its manufacturing base during the late 20th century. The city responded to the challenge by leveraging its innovation assets and is now known for world-class healthcare and research institutions, a growing brokerage and investment services sector, and as a center for plant and life sciences. This dynamic and progressive city will provide a rich learning laboratory of best practices for transforming a local economic base.

The conference's featured keynote speakers are St. Louis-based leaders – from a wide range of fields – who created and guided the city's dramatic return. They include:

Featured Keynote Speakers Include:

- **Thomas F. George**, Chancellor, University of Missouri - St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
- **Daniel J. Ludeman**, President & CEO, Wells Fargo Advisors, St. Louis, MO
- **George Paz**, President & CEO, Express Scripts, St. Louis, MO
- **William A. Peck, MD**, Washington University Center for Health Policy, St. Louis, MO
- **Kerry Preete**, Senior Vice President of Corporate Strategy, Monsanto Company, St. Louis, MO
- **Rakesh Sachdev**, Director, President & CEO, Sigma-Aldrich Corporation, St. Louis, MO
- **Chuck Stout**, Chief Executive Officer, Tech Manufacturing, Wright City, MO
- **Mark Trudeau**, President, Pharmaceuticals, Covidien Pharmaceuticals, Hazelwood, MO
- **James D. Weddle**, Managing Partner, Edward Jones, St. Louis, MO

The [International Economic Development Council](http://www.iedconline.org) is the premier independent non-profit membership and research organization dedicated to helping economic development professionals create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions. Serving more than 4,400 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 legislative tracking. Visit www.iedconline.org to learn more.

To attend, please download our Media Free Registration Form and fax it back to (202) 223-4745 with attention to Earnestine Jones.

Conference Website: <http://www.iedconline.org/DrivingInnovation/index.html>

Program Outline: <http://www.iedconline.org/DrivingInnovation/Program.html>

About IEDC: http://www.iedconline.org/?p=About_IEDC

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