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Communities Across North America Create a Buzz for Economic Development Week
The International Economic Development Council's annual event was celebrated in dozens of communities in the U.S. and Canada

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 24, 2017) — More than 170 communities and 188 organizations across North America celebrated Economic Development Week from May 8-13, more than doubling the number of participants in 2016.

The goal of Economic Development Week (EDW) is to highlight the significant contributions and impacts that economic development and economic developers have on communities. Economic development is a set of programs and policies that aid in the creation, retention and expansion of jobs; the development of a stable tax base; and the enhancement of wealth. 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.

This year, campaign activities ranged from open house events, ribbon cuttings for new businesses, special lectures and speaker series, social media posts, promotional videos and proclamations recognizing the event.

Three U.S. governors signed proclamations recognizing EDW across their states. These included Governor John Hickenlooper of Colorado, Governor Greg Abbot of Texas and Governor Matt Mead of Wyoming.

“I know economic development is a process that is strengthened by the critical partnership between economic development professionals, and local and state government leadership to promote a shared vision for developing resilient communities... I’m proud to proclaim May 8 through 13 Economic Development Week in Colorado,” Governor John Hickenlooper said in a video published by Choose Colorado.

“I firmly believe 20 years from now we can look back and not supplant what we’re doing but be adding to it in a very productive way. Adding to ag[riculture], adding to energy, adding to tourism, adding to the small businesses we have here,” said Governor Matt Mead in a video posted by Wyoming Business Council.

Principal Chief Bill John Baker of Cherokee Nation also signed a resolution. In addition, dozens of cities, counties, parishes and provinces signed proclamations across the U.S. and Canada. Mayor Bob Buckhorn of City of Tampa, FL, Mayor Byron W. Brown of Buffalo, NY and Mayor Gale Katchur of Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta are a sample that signed city resolutions.



Many campaigns centered around educating community members about the benefits and successes of economic development. Videos and photos from several communities were posted to social media outlets showing successful development sites and initiatives. Op-Eds were placed in many local news outlets, and press coverage was earned at some events.

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 awards will be presented at IEDC 2017 Annual Conference from September 17-20 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

IEDC announced that Economic Development Week will return in 2018, from May 7-12.

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. ###