



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Conference Coverage Request:**

Economic Diversity, Innovation, and Workforce Quality:  
*Critical Building Blocks of a Globally Competitive Region*

**WASHINGTON, DC, May 29, 2014** – The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) will hold its [Spring Conference](#) from June 1-3, 2014 in Minneapolis-Saint Paul, MN. This conference is focused on how to succeed in the changing industrial economy by using a community's best assets and industrial background to its advantage. Featured industries for the 2014 Spring Conference include manufacturing, retail, entertainment, aerospace, automotive, healthcare, and logistics.

From a vibrant collection of start-ups to super-sized international companies such as General Mills, 3M, United Health Group, U.S. Bank and Cargill, Greater Minneapolis-Saint Paul has spread its bets over a rich range of businesses and industries. The [2014 Spring Conference](#) will analyze trends in existing and emerging industries, while demonstrating how communities and regions can support, attract, and retain diverse sources of cluster-based activity amidst a changing global economic development landscape.

The featured speakers for the [Spring Conference](#) are experts in the field of economic development from across the country. Many of the keynote speakers are based in Minneapolis-Saint Paul, which will be helpful in analyzing the success of the recovery.

**Featured Keynote Speakers Include:**

- [The Honorable Chris Coleman](#), Mayor, City of St. Paul, MN
- [The Honorable Mark Dayton](#), Governor, Minnesota
- [The Honorable Betsy Hodges](#), Mayor, City of Minneapolis, MN
- [The Honorable Gene Winstead](#), Mayor, City of Bloomington, MN
- [Douglas M. Baker](#), Chairman & CEO, Ecolab, Inc., St. Paul, MN
- [Richard Davis](#), Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer, US Bancorp, U.S. Bancorp Center, Minneapolis, MN
- [Eric W. Kaler, PhD](#), President, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
- [Scott Peterson](#), Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, The Schwan Food Company, Marshall, MN
- [Steven Rosenstone, PhD](#), Chancellor, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, St. Paul, MN
- [Myles Shaver, PhD](#), Professor of Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
- [Katie Clark Sieben](#), Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, St. Paul, MN
- [Tim Welsh](#), Director, McKinsey & Company, Minneapolis, MN

**About the International Economic Development Council**

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,000 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. When we succeed, our members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions. [www.iedconline.org](http://www.iedconline.org)

To attend, please contact Media Associate Erin Way at (202) 942-9474 or [eway@iedconline.org](mailto:eway@iedconline.org).

View our [Spring Conference website](#), [program outline](#), and learn more [about IEDC](#).

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