



INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

The Power of Knowledge and Leadership

International Economic Development Council
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Media Release

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Conference Coverage Request:

*Leveraging Unique Regional Assets to Compete Globally:
Spurring Job Creation through Cluster Development and Transformation*

WASHINGTON, DC (June 4, 2013) - The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) will hold its Spring Conference from June 9-11, 2013 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. 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 2013 Spring Conference include automotive research and development, higher education, energy conservation, homeland security and defense, and healthcare information technology.

Michigan has a history of endurance since the Great Depression and the more recent Great Recession. With the highest unemployment rate of the 50 states during the recession, the state has shown immense growth and has had one of the most impressive recoveries. The region's resiliency can be a model to other areas around the country. By adapting businesses for economic strife, renovations and changing conventional business models, Ann Arbor and cities around it provide a remarkable environment to learn the best strategies for transforming an economy. The conference will conclude with a tour of Detroit's comeback, which serves as another example of the state's perseverance.

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 Ann Arbor, which will be helpful in analyzing the success of the recovery.

Featured Keynote Speakers Include:

- **David Brandon**, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, MI
- **David E. Cole, PhD**, Chairman, AutoHarvest and Chairman Emeritus, Center for Automotive Research - Ann Arbor, MI
- **David O. Egner**, Executive Director, New Economy Initiative of Southeast Michigan - Detroit, MI
- **Larry Freed**, CEO, ForeSee - Ann Arbor, MI
- **The Honorable John Hieftje**, Mayor, City of Ann Arbor - Ann Arbor, MI
- **Matthew McGuire**, Director of the Office of Business Liaison, U.S. Department of Commerce - Washington, DC
- **Doug Rothwell**, President & CEO, Business Leaders of Michigan - Detroit, MI
- **Richard Sheridan**, CEO, Menlo Innovations - Ann Arbor, MI
- **The Honorable Rick Snyder**, Governor, State of Michigan
- **Cynthia H. Wilbanks**, Vice President for Government Relations, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, MI

About IEDC:

The [International Economic Development Council](#) 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

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

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

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