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IEDC Announces its Keynote Speakers for Economic Future Forum
Nine Experts and Leaders in their field to Speak on Future Industries

Washington, DC. (June, 21 2018) – The International Economic Development Council hosts the 2018 Economic Future Forum in Buffalo, NY. Industry experts will

The 2018 IEDC Economic Future Forum theme is Planning for Prosperity: Leveraging Tomorrow's Brightest Industries. Speakers will highlight core concepts and opportunities economic developers can capitalize for their communities, as industries continue to evolve. The event will Take place from June 24-26

The final line up for this year's keynote speakers is:

- [J.P. Bak, Esq.](#), Chief Executive Officer, Bak USA
- [Ulla Bak, Esq.](#), President, Bak USA
- [Richard Ferranti](#), President & Chief Operating Officer, Rich Products Corporation
- [Lara Fritts](#), Director of the Department of Economic Development, Salt Lake City Department of Economic Development
- [Jeremy "Jerry" Jacobs Jr.](#), Co-Chief Executive Officer, Delaware North and Alternate Governor, Boston Bruins
- [René F. Jones](#), Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, M&T Bank
- [Norma Nowak](#), Executive Director NYS Center of Excellence in Bionformantics & Life Sciences
- [Mark Poloncarz, Esq.](#), County Executive, Erie County Government
- [Chuck Vollmer](#), Founder, Jobenomics.

Discussion topics in plenary and concurrent sessions will include Nature Tourism, Transit Oriented Development, Industry Forecasts, and effective use of Data Science.

Forum attendees will also tour various projects in Buffalo, including:

- The Niagara Power Vista
- Tesla and Panasonic's joint venture project and a state-of-the-art logistics center, Sonwil
- The Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC)

IEDC's think tank, the Economic Development Research Partners, EDRP, will also launch a new report, **The Future Ready: How Economic Development Organizations Prepare for Tomorrow's Economy**, which will explore how artificial intelligence, virtual reality, robotics,

blockchain and other developing technologies and innovations will impact healthcare, manufacturing, retail and food, and how communities can proactively respond to disruption. Information about this new paper may be seen at <https://www.iedconline.org/edrp>.

More information about Economic Future Forum, including registration can be found online at www.iedconline.org/FutureForum.

About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers typically work for cities, counties, states, public private partnerships and chamber of commerce and 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.

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