



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 27, 2011**

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### **International Economic Development Council's 2011 Annual Conference**

**CHARLOTTE, NC (July 27, 2011)** – The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) will hold its annual conference September 18-21, 2011 at The Westin Hotel in Charlotte, North Carolina. This premier annual conference will provide highly relevant sessions and top speakers tackling the tough issues economic developers are facing today. This year's theme is Connect Locally, Succeed Globally.

The conference is expected to draw influential business leaders, economic professionals and academics to address current trends that are replacing the old ways of doing business with innovative new approaches. Scheduled events include engaging seminars, networking opportunities and educational tours. Featured keynote speakers include:

#### **Sunday, September 18:**

- **Dan Gerlach, President**, The Golden LEAF Foundation, Rocky Mount, NC
- **Jeffrey S. Merrifield**, Senior Vice President, Shaw Power Group, Houston, TX
- **Honorable James E. Mitchell, Jr.**, President, National League of Cities, Council Member, Office of the City Council, Charlotte, NC
- **Jennifer Watson Roberts**, Chairman, At-Large, Board of County Commissioners Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, NC

#### **Monday, September 19:**

- **Mark Vitner**, Managing Director & Senior Economist, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, Charlotte, NC
- **Doug Parker**, Chairman & CEO, US Airways, Tempe, AZ
- **Honorable Anthony R. Foxx**, Mayor, City of Charlotte, NC
- **Dennis G. Coleman, CEcD, FM**, President & CEO, St. Louis County Economic Council, St. Louis, MO

#### **Tuesday, September 20:**

- **James E. Rogers, Chairman**, President & CEO, Duke Energy Corporation, Charlotte, NC
- **Paul L. Krutko, FM**, President & CEO, Ann Arbor SPARK, Ann Arbor, MI

Participants at the Annual Conference will explore the conference theme through sessions offered in four primary tracks:

- **Current Forces Influencing Economic Development and Strategies for Response**
- **New Forms of Infrastructure Investment for Economic Growth**
- **Catching the Next Wave of Innovation and Securing a Place in the Global Economy**
- **Connecting Resources for Career and Organizational Growth in the Next Decade**

As the nation's second largest banking center, the Charlotte region recently boasted the lowest center-city office vacancy rate in America. Today, they have emerged as a new leader in many sectors including manufacturing, healthcare, financial services and energy. The Charlotte region is home to nine Fortune 500 companies and over 850 foreign companies, making it a gateway to global markets. Win-win partnerships between government, business and institutions of higher learning make the Charlotte Region a rich landscape to showcase best practices for communities of all sizes.

The [International Economic Development Council](http://www.iedconline.org) (IEDC) is the premier membership 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 4,500 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. For more information about IEDC visit [www.iedconline.org](http://www.iedconline.org).

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/AnnualConference>

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

About IEDC: [http://www.iedconline.org/?p=About\\_IEDC](http://www.iedconline.org/?p=About_IEDC)