



INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

The Power of Knowledge and Leadership

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Media Release

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DENNIS G. COLEMAN ACKNOWLEDGED WITH SPECIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DESIGNATION

*ST. LOUIS, MO LEADER RECOGNIZED FOR SERVING AS AN
INSPIRATIONAL SOURCE IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT*

WASHINGTON, DC (July 28, 2015) - Dennis G. Coleman, CEcD, FM, HLM will be awarded the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Economic Development in Honor of Edward deLuca by the [International Economic Development Council](http://www.iedconline.org) (IEDC). The award is given in honor of Edward deLuca, in recognition of a lifelong commitment to excellence in economic development. Mr. Coleman's steadfast dedication to the economic development industry solidifies him as the prime recipient. The award will be presented on Monday, October 5, among fellow economic development professionals and peers, at IEDC's Annual Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. The award was announced at a gathering honoring Mr. Coleman's retirement on Tuesday, July 28.

"The Lifetime Achievement Award is bestowed upon an individual who has demonstrated consistent, exemplary performance in the economic development profession and has played a major role in shaping and improving the practice of economic development. Denny embodies those qualities and more, and we are excited to honor his lifetime of work at our annual conference this fall", said JoAnn Crary, CEcD, Chair of the International Economic Development Council and President of Saginaw Future Inc.

"There are few people in the economic development profession who have had such longevity and success in a single region," said Jeffrey Finkle, CEcD, President and CEO of IEDC. "Denny has dedicated his life to increasing the prosperity and vitality of St. Louis and those who live there. The International Economic Development Council is honored to have had him as a Chairman of our organization and as a champion of economic development on the international stage, and I personally can think of no one more deserving of the Lifetime Achievement Award."

For over forty years, Dennis Coleman's passion and talent in bringing the community together has bolstered the city of St. Louis. As CEO of the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, Coleman shaped collaborative initiatives that cemented the economic resiliency of both the City and County. Overseeing a multitude of economic development initiatives since the start of his career, Coleman has helped St. Louis earn national recognition for outstanding progress in the areas of community revitalization, business development, and job creation.

Mr. Coleman began his career in economic development by spearheading DeSales Community Housing Corporation, a non-profit that revitalized the local housing market through direct rehabilitation, neighborhood planning, historic preservation, and infrastructure improvements. To this day, DeSales is still impacting the community. In addition, Coleman served as the director of development for both St. Louis County and St. Louis City, championing neighborhood, housing, and economic development efforts. He also served as vice president for community development at Mercantile Bank (now U.S. Bank) when the bank's community development corporation received the National Fair Housing Award and a Private Sector Initiatives Award from the White House.

Coleman has a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Wisconsin and bachelor's degree in urban geography from Saint Louis University. He also completed the Senior Executive Program at John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Coleman is a past chair for the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). He is an advisory board member for Saint Louis University. Coleman serves on numerous other boards and advisory committees for state and local governments, civic organizations, colleges and universities. Coleman and his wife, Bonnie, have been married over 36 years. They have two grown children, Mike and Emily.

About the International Economic Development Council

The [International Economic Development Council](#) (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,500 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.

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