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2018 IEDC Annual Conference's Keynote Speaker Line-up
*Over 1,400 Economic Development Professionals Will Meet in Atlanta for
their Largest Convening of the Year*

Washington, DC (August 3, 2018) – The International Economic Development Council is hosting its 2018 IEDC Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia from September 30 to October 3. This year, the conference will focus on economic inclusivity: providing opportunities for all to obtain job training, employment, housing, and entrepreneurial possibility. The conference theme is, "Inclusive Economic Development: Fulfilling Dreams". The event will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, as well as other locations throughout the metropolitan area.

Featured keynote speakers for this year are:

- Ed Bastian, CEO, Delta Air Lines, Atlanta, GA
- James Fallows, National Correspondent, The Atlantic, Washington, D.C.
- Robert Atkinson, PhD, President, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- Raphael Bostic, CEO and President, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA
- Dan Cathy, Chairman, President, and CEO, Chick-fil-A, Atlanta, GA
- Shan Cooper, Former Chief Transformation Officer, WestRock, Atlanta, GA
- Gretchen Corbin, President and CEO, Georgia Lottery Corporation, Atlanta, GA
- Anne Kaiser, Vice President, Community & Economic Development, Georgia Power, Atlanta, GA

Over two hundred additional speakers will participate in the conference, including 2018 Chairman of the IEDC Board of Directors and President and CEO of the Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation in Tampa, Florida, Craig Richard, CEcD, FM.

"As our communities become more diverse in terms of population, skills, neighborhoods and more, economic developers must learn how to embrace that diversity and maximize opportunities for everyone to prosper," said Craig J. Richard, CEcD FM. "This conference showcases successful examples of inclusive economic growth, in a city that has fully embraced its diversity and effectively leveraged it in its own economic development strategy."

Annual Conference sessions will focus on the following:

- Reimagining Economic Development – transforming the practice

- Growing from Within – leveraging existing strengths to new heights
- Widening the Circle – inclusive workforce strategies
- Placemaking – bringing community to economic development
- Pioneering New Opportunities – strengthening tomorrow’s economy

Speaker bios and session descriptions may be found at iedconline.org/AnnualConference.

Deadline for regular registration is August 17. The cost for members is \$869 and for non-members it is \$1169. For a full list of prices and deadlines, visit the conference [registration site](#).

About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,100 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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