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*Economic Development Research Partners Release new Report on Future Industries.  
Report Contains New Framework for Economic Developers*

*The Economic Development Research Partners (EDRP), a think tank at the International Economic Development Council, released a new report, Future Ready: Preparing for Tomorrow's Economy. The report studies the impact of various technological advancements on different industry sectors and workers, and examines how it will influence economic development practices in the future. The EDRP research team also developed the Future Ready Framework, a tool for economic developers - first of its kind - to help them evaluate and strategize at the organizational and community levels on how to be better prepared for the future.*

*"This paper provides invaluable insights as technology continues to change the composition of our workforce, the production in industries, and the interaction between people and machines. Economic developers need to understand what this means for their communities. It is also important to anticipate change in our own industry, as it affects the wellbeing of cities and businesses." said Julie Engel, CEO & President of the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation, and Chair of the Future Ready taskforce that guided the research.*

*The theme for the report is preparing economic development organizations (EDOs) and communities for a future that is likely to be defined by ubiquitous use of technology, changing skills requirements and changing worker attitudes (such as those engaged in the gig economy), and the implications of these shifts for communities and economic development. By examining several industry sectors that are projected to see major changes in the next decade or so, the report provides insights into how communities are addressing emerging challenges and trying to stay ahead of the curve.*

*"These advancing technologies will impact both the direct environment in which the economic developer works and also the larger global framework in which our national, state and regional economies interact. This would suggest that economic developers will need to be mindful of and sensitive to the impact of artificial intelligence, big data, and other such technologies as the twenty-first century progresses." said Rick Weddle, President & CEO of the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance, and Chair of EDRP this year.*

*IEDC members may download the report at no cost. Nonmembers may purchase the report from the [IEDC Bookstore](#) at a cost of \$75.00.*

### **About Economic Development Research Partners**

*The Economic Development Research Partners Program is an exclusive membership level of IEDC, which supports practice-oriented research. The publications developed under EDRP's guidance and sponsorship are designed to increase the knowledge base of the economic development profession and help practitioners navigate through today's rapidly changing economy. Through the EDRP program, IEDC excels at its mission everyday: to assist practitioners in successfully competing in the global economy, increasing prosperity for communities at an accelerated pace, and empowering economic development professionals to better define their vision and value.*

### **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 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](http://www.iedconline.org).

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