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Estimated 1,500 Economic Development Professionals to Attend Conference in Cleveland

Economic Development Through Technology, Innovation and Productivity

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Sept. 14, 2016) – An estimated 1,500 economic development professionals will be convening in Cleveland, Ohio this fall for one of the largest annual events in economic development. The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) will hold its Annual Conference from Sept. 25-28, 2016 at the Huntington Convention Center in Cleveland, Ohio. The program theme, *Economic Development Through Technology, Innovation and Productivity*, will highlight the changes in the economic development industry, current rising trends and best practices. This year's conference coincides with IEDC's 90th anniversary, and will include special events to celebrate the milestone.

"We're thrilled to have the City of Cleveland and the entire Northeast Ohio region host IEDC's 2016 Annual Conference, which is shaping up to be one of our largest ever attended events." - Barry Matherly, CEcD, FM, President & CEO, Greater Richmond Partnership, Richmond, Virginia, and 2016 IEDC chair of the board of directors.

The conference will feature a series of informational sessions on topics such as the sharing economy and international exchange; receptions for networking and celebrating the 90th anniversary; and workshops on topics such as ethics in the profession.

In addition to the scheduled sessions, workshops and receptions, attendees will have the opportunity to explore Cleveland by registering for educational tours of different areas of the city; from Playhouse Square, Cleveland's theater district, to the Cleveland Clinic, recently ranked the second best hospital in the country in U.S. News and World's report.

With the 2016 Republican National Convention's success in the city, Cleveland proved its ability to attract and host large-scale events. Cleveland's rise to prosperity and economic rebirth provide the backdrop for the conference's message of innovation in economic development.

The featured keynote speakers include Cleveland locals such as Frank Jackson, Mayor of Cleveland since 2006, and Toby Cosgrove, MD, President and CEO of the Cleveland Clinic, as well as speakers from outside of Ohio, such as Clarence Anthony, Executive Director of the League of National Cities.

In addition to these keynote speakers, respected professionals from across the spectrum of the economic development profession will lead concurrent sessions and provide unique perspectives on a range of key topics.



“This year’s program reflects the current priorities that every economic developer is facing, and program content will help us all build upon our individual strategic objectives, plus to tackle the unique issues of our communities,” said Matherly.

IEDC aims to bring together economic development professionals to collaborate on ideas and bring new ideas back to their communities through the conference.

Conference admission is \$860 for IEDC members and \$1040 for nonmembers. Students receive discounted rates. Event registration can be done online through the [Annual Conference website](#). More information and a detailed schedule of events can be found on the website as well as in the e-brochure, available for download from the homepage.

About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,700 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.

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