



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Nation's Top Economic Developers to Hear About Economic Resiliency From
Last U.S. Region to Enter the Great Recession, and the First to Emerge**

Energizing Today to Empower Tomorrow: Creating Success in a Global Economy

WASHINGTON, DC (September 18, 2012) – The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) will hold its Annual Conference, September 30 – October 3, 2012 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, TX. Themed *Energizing Today to Empower Tomorrow: Creating Success in a Global Economy*, this conference will address the challenges and opportunities of growing jobs and investment in today's global economy. By energizing and empowering regional partners through shared messaging, resources, and best practices, communities small and large can reap the benefits and remain competitive.

“The Houston region is excited about hosting the world’s largest gathering of economic developers and site consultants at the 2012 IEDC Annual Conference,” said Craig Richard, Chief Economic Development Officer for the Greater Houston Partnership and IEDC board member. “We have a powerful line up of speakers including Acting Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank, Governor Rick Perry, Mayor Annise Parker, Johnson Space Center Director Mike Coats, business leaders and authors as well as insightful panel sessions focusing on best practices to increase economic prosperity in your local community. You do not want to miss this!”

After tough times in the 1980s, Houston-area leaders laid a foundation for growth based on sound planning, a regional approach, and global competitiveness. Now, as the last U.S. region to enter the Great Recession and the first to emerge, Houston is a model of economic resiliency. Through a program of top speakers, cutting-edge topics, and educational tours, conference attendees will not only experience the region's spirit of cooperation and innovation, but leave with new tools and strategies to take their organizations to the next level.

Featured Keynote Speakers Include:

- **Rebecca M. Blank**, Acting Secretary of Commerce and Deputy Secretary of Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce
- **Jason Few**, Executive Vice President and Chief Customer Officer, NRG Energy, President, Reliant, Houston, TX
- **Richard Florida, PhD**, Professor, University of Toronto, Senior Editor, *The Atlantic Magazine*, Miami Beach, FL
- **Drayton McLane**, Chairman, The McLane Group, Temple, TX
- **Honorable Annise D. Parker**, Mayor, City of Houston, TX
- **M. Ray Perryman, PhD**, President & CEO, The Perryman Group, Waco, TX
- **Honorable Rick Perry**, Governor, State of Texas
- **Davis S. Ridley**, Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer, Southwest Airlines, Dallas, TX

The [International Economic Development Council](http://www.iedonline.org) is the premier independent non-profit membership and research 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 4,100 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. Visit www.iedonline.org to learn more.

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.iedonline.org/AnnualConference/index.html>

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

About IEDC: http://www.iedonline.org/?p=About_IEDC