



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Coverage Request**  
**Nation's Top Economic Developers to Gather in Fort Worth to Address New Strategies for  
Creating Jobs and Building Local Wealth**

**IEDC Annual Conference | Fort Worth, TX | October 19-22, 2014**

**WASHINGTON, DC (October 14, 2014)** – The [International Economic Development Council](#) (IEDC) will hold its [Annual Conference](#), October 19-22, 2014 at the Fort Worth Convention Center in Fort Worth, TX. Themed [Steering Towards the Future: Convergence, Connectivity, and Creativity](#), the event will address obstacles facing economic developers, and existing trends in our dynamic economy. Economic developers across the globe will gather and learn from Fort Worth's success in moving from recession to growth, from historical legacy to future progress.

The Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area is the fourth largest metro-area in the United States, with a population of more than 6.5 million people. Fort Worth's creative collaboration with other cities in the Metroplex has improved regional infrastructure, established the DFW region as an international transportation hub, and reinvented obsolete areas.

With over 1,400 projected attendees, this event is the largest international gathering of economic development professionals in the world. Expected attendees include economic development professionals from 48 states (and Washington, DC), 8 Canadian provinces, and 14 countries. There will be leaders from regional, state, county, and city economic development organizations; chambers of commerce and other business support organizations; community and neighborhood development organizations; technology development agencies; utility companies; educational institutions; consulting practices; redevelopment authorities; and state, local, and federal government offices.

**The [Conference Program](#) will explore:**

- **Converging Markets:** case studies of regional cooperation and public-private partnerships, including in rail, branding and marketing, infrastructure, and energy
- **Connected Locally to Succeed Globally:** examples of multimodal industrial parks, international trade and investment opportunities, and economic development around logistical areas
- **Creatively Reinventing:** how to turnaround vacant and dilapidated buildings, reviving blighted neighborhoods, and using your communities heritage and history as a marketing advantage

**Featured Keynote [Speakers](#) include:**

- [Admiral Patrick M. Walsh, USN \(Ret.\)](#), former Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Senior Vice President, iSIGHT Partners
- [The Honorable Kay Granger](#), United States Representative, State of Texas, Washington, D.C.
- [The Honorable Betsy Price](#), Mayor of Fort Worth, Texas

- [The Honorable Vinai Thummalapally](#), Executive Director, SelectUSA, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.
- [The Honorable Jay Williams](#), Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, Economic Development Administration, United States Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.
- [Jon Clifton](#), Managing Director, Gallup World Poll, Washington, DC
- [Aaron Demerson](#), Director, Office of Employer Initiatives, Texas Workforce Commission, Austin, Texas
- [Sean Donohue](#), Chief Executive Officer, Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, Fort Worth, TX
- [Erma Johnson Hadley](#), Chancellor, Tarrant County College, Fort Worth, Texas
- [Jean Wallace](#), Vice President, Human Resources, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, Fort Worth, Texas
- [Dalila Wilson-Scott](#), Managing Director Global Philanthropy and President, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, New York City, New York

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

To attend, please contact Media Associate Erin Way at (202) 942-9474 or [eway@iedconline.org](mailto:eway@iedconline.org).

View our [Annual Conference website](#), [program outline](#), and [learn more about IEDC](#).