



INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL

*The Power of Knowledge and Leadership*

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## *Media Release*

For Immediate Release  
October 28, 2014

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### **International Economic Development Council Announces Prominent Award Winners at 2014 Annual Conference**

**WASHINGTON, DC** (October 28, 2014) – The [International Economic Development Council](http://www.iedconline.org) (IEDC) presented its the 2014 Excellence in Economic Development Awards, and Leadership Awards during its Annual Conference in Fort Worth, TX, October 19-22. The 2014 Excellence in Economic Development Award winners were honored for their creative programs advancing economic development and improving communities throughout the world. The Leadership Awards recognize outstanding leaders in the public and private sectors who are advancing economic development in their communities.

IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and new media. These prestigious awards recognize organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities. Winners demonstrate to the experienced panel of judges that they are at the forefront of the economic development profession. IEDC recognizes only the most successful, innovative and effective leaders, programs, partnerships, and promotional materials.

The inaugural Best in Show Award was presented to Buffalo Niagara Enterprise, buffalo, NY, for their "Are You Right for Buffalo?" video. The Best in Show Award is presented to the best entry out of all 24 categories of promotional, programmatic, and partnership awards. Buffalo Niagara Enterprise's video was selected because of its innovation, effectiveness, and creativity. The award was accepted by Thomas Kucharski, CECD, President and CEO of the organization.

IEDC's Leadership Awards recognize the world's best economic development leaders. These prestigious awards honor individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities. 2014 winners include:

#### **Fellow Member Designations:**

- Barbara K. Johnson, Principal at The Johnson Group
- David Leezer, CECD, Director of Economic Development at City of St. Charles
- Fred Morley, Executive Vice President and Chief Economist at Greater Halifax Partnership
- Mary Jane Stanley, CECD, EM, President & CEO at Stanly Advisory Associates, LLC

#### **Honorary Life Member Designations:**

- Austin Burke, Economic Development Consultant at Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce

**Honorary Certified Economic Developer:**

- Mayor Hazel McCallion, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

**Young Economic Developer of the Year:**

- Jon Bittner, Deputy Commissioner at State of Alaska

**Jeffrey A. Finkle Organizational Leadership Award:**

- Gregory H. Wingfield, President at Greater Richmond Partnership, Inc.

**Chairman's Award:**

- Christian Saublen, Executive Manager at the European Association of Development Agencies

**Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Economic Development, in honor of Edward deLuca:**

- Edward A. Nelson, Jr., CECd, FM, HLM, Economic Development Professional at USFC-EDI

**Institutional Leadership Award**

- Diane Kaplan, President & CEO at Rasmuson Foundation

**Citizen Leadership Award**

- Leslie Jacobs, Vice Chair at New Orleans Business Alliance
- Kimber Lanning, Executive Director at Local First Arizona

**Outgoing Board Chairman**

- William C. Sproull, FM, Chairman at International Economic Development Council

Those interested in 2015 Awards should [visit IEDC's website](#) for category descriptions and requirements. Economic developers are sure to find at least one of 35 categories that fit their project, program or community leader.

Inquiries should be directed to Kerry Burgott at [awards@iedconline.org](mailto:awards@iedconline.org) or (202) 942-9483.

**About the International Economic Development Council**

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,400 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)

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