



## Higher Education and Economic Development

Prepared by the Higher Education Advisory Committee

### Organizations that Connect Higher Education with Economic Development

Organization	Description	Website
<b>UEDA</b> University Economic Development Association	UEDA is the cornerstone membership organization representing higher education, private sector, and community economic development stakeholders. UEDA works to expand economic opportunity in communities by leveraging research, community resources, campus planning, talent development, and technology commercialization.	<a href="http://www.universityeda.org">www.universityeda.org</a>
<b>APLU</b> Association of Public and Land Grant Universities	APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. With a membership of 238 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations, APLU's agenda is built on three pillars of increasing degree completion and academic success, advancing scientific research, and expanding engagement.	<a href="http://www.aplu.org">www.aplu.org</a>
<b>AACC</b> American Association of Community Colleges	AACC supports and promotes its 1,200 member colleges with more than 13 million students through policy initiatives, innovative programs, research and information, and strategic outreach to business, industry, and the national news media.	<a href="http://www.aacc.nche.edu">www.aacc.nche.edu</a>
<b>AURP</b> Association of University Research Parks	AURP fosters innovation, commercialization, and economic growth in a global economy through university, industry, and government partnerships. AURP represents the leadership of these technology developments – designed to promote research institute-industry relations – to foster innovation, and to facilitate the transfer of technology from such institutions to the private sector.	<a href="http://www.aurp.net">www.aurp.net</a>
<b>ACTE</b> Association for Career and Technical Education	ACTE is the largest national education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for careers. ACTE's mission is to provide educational leadership in developing a competitive workforce.	<a href="http://www.acteonline.org">www.acteonline.org</a>
<b>CAEL</b> Council for Adult and Experiential Learning	CAEL works with economic development partnerships, higher education institutions, employers and industries to assess current and future workforce supply and demand, align education and workforce development efforts with communities' target sectors, and create skills development strategies that support business attraction, retention, and expansion.	<a href="http://www.cael.org/workforce-and-economic-development">www.cael.org/workforce-and-economic-development</a>

The Association of Public and Land Grant Universities and the University Economic Development Association published *Higher Education Engagement in Economic Development: Foundations for Strategy and Practice* as a guide for higher education institutions to think more comprehensively about how economic development and engagement activities connect to each other and to an institution's core mission.



This document is available at:

[www.aplu.org/library/higher-education-engagement-in-economic-development-foundations-for-strategy-and-practice](http://www.aplu.org/library/higher-education-engagement-in-economic-development-foundations-for-strategy-and-practice)

## How to Connect with a Higher Education Institution

Higher education institutions are typically managed with shared governance and through many semi-autonomous departments and centers, making it difficult for outsiders to identify the relevant offices with which to partner. The *Foundations of Strategy and Practice* publication categorizes higher education institutions' role in economic development into three categories: innovation, talent, and place. Within universities and colleges, many different offices have responsibility for the various programs that might partner with local economic development organizations. Although the specific names will vary by institution, the following types of offices tend to focus on areas of interest to economic developers. It is important to remember there is no single "front door" to a university, and there are many potential ways to partner.

### Focus on Innovation

- Center for Entrepreneurship
- Business Incubator
- University Research and Technology Parks
- Office of Technology Transfer
- Office for Research
- School of Engineering
- Small Business Development Centers

### Focus on Talent

- Career planning
- Internships
- Vocational training programs
- Experiential learning
- Academic departments
- Professors

### Focus on Place

- Community outreach
- Service learning
- Various types of clinics (legal, health, etc.)
- Urban Centers or Rural Centers
- Business Research Center within a School of Business
- Extension Offices (Agriculture, Manufacturing, Cooperative, etc.)
- University-based Economic Development Centers