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White House Hosts Forum on Economic Development

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 30, 2015) The [International Economic Development Council](#) (IEDC) and [SelectUSA](#) hosted the 4th annual *White House Forum on Economic Development* on Thursday, July 30, 2015. The day-long summit featured keynote panels and breakout discussion sessions. Over 50 economic development leaders from across the country attended and directly engaged senior White House and Administration officials. Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President and Assistant to the president for Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs provided the welcome remarks.

JoAnn Crary, CEcD, President of Saginaw Future Inc., in Saginaw, Michigan and current Chair of the IEDC Board of Directors, stressed the importance of the face time invitees get with the Obama Administration officials, saying: "There is no substitution for direct contact with program heads and policy makers. These are the decision-makers, and they need to hear from leaders in America's communities who provide new ideas and solutions."

Opening remarks were provided by Bruce Andrews, the Deputy Secretary for the Department of Commerce. Jay Williams, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development at the Department of Commerce continued the morning conversation and spoke about how to build stronger regional economies. Jeffrey Zients, the Director of the National Economic Council and Assistant to the President for Economic Policy provided lunch remarks. The forum closed with a session titled *Macroeconomic Outlook on the Economy of the Future*, with speakers Mark Doms, the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Economic and Statistics Administration, at the Department of Commerce and Jason Miller, the Deputy Director at the National Economic Council for the White House.

Additional White House Forum on Economic Development participants included:

- Ambassador Robert Holleyman, Deputy United States Trade Representative
- Vinai Thummalapaly, Executive Director, SelectUSA, Department of Commerce
- Chris Camacho, President & CEO, Greater Phoenix Economic Council
- Marva Bryan, CEcD, Chief Financial Officer, Development Authority of Fulton County
- Dr. Elaine Buckberg, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy coordination, Department of the Treasury
- JoAnn Crary, CEcD, Chair, International Economic Development Council; President, Saginaw Future Inc.
- Jeff Finkle, CEcD, President & CEO, International Economic Development Council
- Dan Gundersen, Chief Operating Officer, Virginia Economic Development Partnership
- Marcus Jadotte, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Analysis, Department of Commerce

- Pramod Khargonekar, Assistant Director for the Directorate of Engineering, National Science Foundation
- Arun Kumar, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets & Director General of the US and Foreign Commercial Service, Department of Commerce
- Mike Langley, President & CEO, Greater MSP
- Barry Matherly, CEcD, Vice Chair, International Economic Development Council; President & CEO, Greater Richmond Partnership, Inc.
- Craig Richard, CEcD, Chair of External Member Relations, International Economic Development Council; President, Invest Atlanta
- Peter Rogoff, Under Secretary for Rural Development, Department of Agriculture
- Phillip Singerman, Associate Director for Innovation and Industry Services, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce
- Irene Spanos, Director, Economic Development, Oakland County Executive Office
- Kurt Tong, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic & Business Affairs, Department of State

During the Forum, economic development practitioners will meet with administration officials to discuss and provide input based on a wide range of topics. The forum focuses on key topics that have the greatest potential to positively impact job creation in the near and long term. The agenda covers a dynamic set of topics, including infrastructure development, international trade and attraction, and manufacturing.

The following agencies will participate in the Forum and related events:

- SelectUSA
- Economic Development Administration
- National Economic Council
- National Science Foundation
- National Institute of Standards and Technology
- United States Department of Commerce
- United States Department of Agriculture
- United States Department of the Treasury
- United States Department of Transportation

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About the International Economic Development Council

The [International Economic Development Council](http://www.iedconline.org) (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,600 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