



LEDA Earns Prestigious Accreditation by the International Economic Development Council

Lafayette, LA—Mandi Mitchell, president and CEO of the Lafayette Economic Development Authority (LEDA), and Frank Neuner, chairman of LEDA's Board of Commissioners, announced that LEDA has been designated an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO) by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). LEDA is one of nearly 80 economic development groups in the world to earn the AEDO status, which follows a six-month long documentation and site review process by IEDC.

The AEDO program is a comprehensive peer review process that measures economic development organizations against commonly held standards in the profession. The program consists of two phases— a documentation review and an onsite visit. Each phase is designed to evaluate information about the structure, organization, funding, programs, and staff of the candidate economic development organization.

"LEDA displays the professionalism, commitment, and technical expertise that is deserving of this honor," said IEDC President and CEO Nathan Ohle.

LEDA began the AEDO process in 2023, compiling extensive documentation about the organization's mission, goals, structure, funding, programs, activities, partners, stakeholders, and community support. IEDC's review concluded with a two-day site visit by the AEDO Site Visit Review Team in March.

The reviewers met with more than 20 community leaders and partners who are stakeholders in the local economic development process. Their feedback underscored LEDA's ability to cultivate a collaborative environment where staff excellence and strategic leadership drive impactful community and economic development. The AEDO Site Visit Review Team upheld and highlighted LEDA's Opportunity Machine and its workforce development, business retention & expansion, and business intelligence as best practices.

"Achieving the Accredited Economic Development Organization designation underscores LEDA's dedication to fostering economic growth and prosperity in Lafayette. This honor reflects the commitment and professionalism exhibited by LEDA's staff, whose expertise and efforts have propelled us to this milestone," said Mitchell. "LEDA is steadfastly focused on establishing Lafayette Parish as a vibrant hub of business and innovation in South Louisiana. This accreditation reaffirms our mission to cultivate a thriving economic landscape, driving progress and opportunity for our community."

Maintenance of the AEDO status is required every three years and is accomplished through documentation submission and/or onsite visits by a team of the AEDO subcommittee.



Mayor-President Monique Boulet will recognize LEDA's Accredited Economic Development Organization status with a proclamation on Tuesday, May 7, and LEDA will host a celebration at its office on the morning of Wednesday, May 8.

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About Lafayette Economic Development Authority (LEDA)

For more than 50 years, Lafayette Economic Development Authority (LEDA) has assisted businesses as they made decisions to start, expand or relocate to Lafayette, Louisiana, and its surrounding communities. Through innovative collaborations with business, government and education, LEDA strives to diversify the community's business base for future growth and development. www.lafayette.org

About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,300 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, IDCs 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. IEDC's members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities and improve the quality of life in their regions. www.iedconline.org.