



LAKE COUNTY PARTNERS PROUDLY RECEIVES EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Innovative workforce partnership and website drive business success in Lake County, Illinois

Washington, D.C., October 19, 2021 – Lake County Partners has won a Silver Rank from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) for its new website and groundbreaking Workforce Ecosystem partnership ([co-led by Lake County Workforce Development, the College of Lake County, the Lake County Tech Campus and other stakeholders](#)), designed to fuel business growth in Lake County, Illinois. The honor was presented to the organization at an awards ceremony held during the IEDC Annual Conference.

“We work hand-in-hand with our partners to strategically forge partnerships and assemble important resources that fuel growth. Outreach is instrumental to our work, and [our new website](#) gives us the opportunity to quickly connect with and serve businesses. We are proud to have been directly involved in creating 2,897 new jobs, retaining 4,039 jobs and fueling more than \$317.5 million in direct capital investments in Lake County, Illinois over the last several years,” noted **Lake County Partners president and CEO Kevin Considine**.

Lake County Partners has been at the forefront of the groundbreaking partnership between Lake County Workforce Development, the College of Lake County, the Lake County Tech Campus and other workforce partners—dubbed the Lake County Workforce Ecosystem—to ensure that businesses have the talent that they need to grow. Through targeted business outreach, Lake County Partners staff engages with company leaders in the four key industries of advanced manufacturing, life sciences, healthcare, and professional/technical services.

“In most cases, across all industries, important decisions come down to talent,” said **Business Development Director Ron Lanz**. “Fortunately, Lake County’s workforce is unparalleled. Through the connections available to us in the Workforce Ecosystem, we can quickly help business leaders tap into it.”

Based on identified business needs, employers are connected to the appropriate partners within the Workforce Ecosystem to provide an integrated solution. In the past year, Lake County Partners has worked to broaden its reach in the continued quest to retain and attract business. As a result, the organization launched [a new, lead-focused website](#) that enables companies to easily request free assistance; all customer service is then managed through a shared CRM platform, ensuring that Workforce Ecosystem partners understand the totality of the support and can work together to provide assistance and track success. The new website also serves as a hub for important business resources, news and events.

IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders. 25 award categories honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities. Awards are judged by a diverse panel of economic and community developers, following a nomination process held earlier this year. IEDC received over 500 submissions from 4 countries. Washington, D.C.

“The winners of IEDC’s Excellence in Economic Development awards represent the best of economic development and exemplify the leadership that our profession strives for every day,” said **2021 IEDC Board Chair and Invest Buffalo Niagara, President, and CEO Tom Kucharski**. “We're incredibly honored to recognize the outstanding organizations that received this year's Excellence Awards. This year, more than ever, has presented opportunities to innovate, impact, and progress the cities, neighborhoods, and communities around us. Each of this year's recipients represents the best of the economic development profession and exemplifies the ingenuity for fellow economic developers to aspire to in the years to come.”

About Lake County Partners

Lake County Partners is a 501(c)(3) economic development corporation that works to maintain economic vitality in Lake County, Illinois by creating and retaining quality jobs, stimulating capital investment, and pursuing economic diversity. Lake County promises businesses a highly educated workforce, beautiful and diverse recreational areas, a gateway to global markets, the right balance between work and play, top-ranking schools nationwide, world-class healthcare in your backyard, global industry leaders, and a first-rate quality of life.

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About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,000 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 engage in the full range of economic development experiences. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in various 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. Learn more at iedconline.org.

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