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### **Dr. Maury Forman receives Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Economic Development Council**

OLYMPIA, WA – Dr. Maury Forman was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Economic Development from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) at their annual conference in Nashville, Oct. 4.

The Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Economic Development is given to one individual for their lifelong commitment to excellence in economic development and demonstrated work that has made a significant impact on the professional at the national or international level. Recipients of this award embody best practices and have helped to set the standard for exemplary economic development beyond their own community.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Forman worked for the Washington State Department of Commerce before retiring as Senior Manager in 2016. Described as an innovator, leader and visionary in economic development, particularly in the Northwest region, Dr. Forman touched many lives during his career at the Department of Commerce. He brought a renewed focus to the state's economic development efforts for small businesses and entrepreneurship, particularly in rural communities through the creation of the State of Washington's technical assistance, education and training, access to capital and mentoring/networking (TEAM) strategy in 2013.

Dr. Forman started Washington's first Basic Economic Development Course (BEDC) in 1991 after seeing a need for economic development professionals to receive training. To date, the BEDC has graduated over 2,500 attendees from the Northwest region and Dr. Forman found a way to uniquely engage with professionals that made a lasting impact in their communities both big and small. In addition to the BEDC, Dr. Forman founded Community Survivors, bringing practitioners from Washington, Oregon and British Columbia together to showcase best practices and introduce new strategies to economic developers in the region.

"Maury's many contributions to Washington's economy have not only been significant but continue to guide our strategy and initiatives four years after his retirement, said Washington Governor Jay Inslee. "That, perhaps, is the greatest testament that Maury deserves a Lifetime Achievement Award from the IEDC, for the standard of excellence he has set for those who follow in his footsteps is a very high bar indeed."

Congressman Derek Kilmer, a former student of Dr. Forman referred to him as “the most trusted economic development voice in the country.” Former Governor Gregoire said that “his expertise in economic development and entrepreneurship has gained national and international notoriety.” Senator Lisa Wellman referenced how “his wit and humor combined with his knowledge and commitment makes him a unique treasure in the profession.”

Dr. Forman has written more than 21 books that have been distributed for free providing technical assistance to practitioners online and at state conferences. These books span from topics such as retention, community development, management, and best practices and are identifiable through their accessibility and inclusion of cartoons. Many of these books serve as guides for businesses and communities today.

Aside from his quantifiable achievements, Dr. Forman has made a lasting impression with those he works with. Described by his friends, colleagues and students as compassionate, witty, humorous and optimistic, Dr. Forman impacted so many through his work as a public sector worker, speaker, writer and educator. His innovative approach to economic development can be seen throughout the Northwest region.

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#### **About Commerce**

Commerce works with local governments, businesses, community-based organizations and tribes to strengthen communities. The department’s diverse portfolio of more than 100 programs and effective public and private partnerships promote sustainable community and economic development to help all Washingtonians thrive. For more information, visit <http://www.commerce.wa.gov>. For information on locating or expanding a business in Washington, visit [choosewashingtonstate.com](http://choosewashingtonstate.com) [Subscribe](#) to Commerce press releases by email. You may unsubscribe at any time.

#### **About the International Economic Development Council**

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is the world's largest membership organization for economic development professionals. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life in their communities by creating, retaining, and expanding jobs that facilitate growth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, our members represent the entire range of economic development. Learn more at [iedconline.org](http://iedconline.org).