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Dr. Maury Forman Receives Leadership Award from the International Economic Development Council

This Jeffrey A. Finkle Organizational Leadership Award recognizes an individual who has continuously led the same public or non-profit economic development organization with integrity, tenacity, and a philanthropic spirit for at least 15 years. Nominees should demonstrate a vast knowledge of the intricacies of the economic development profession and play a pivotal role in the continued success of their organization. They have not only exhibited exemplary leadership but have also worked tirelessly to develop the leaders around them and have a history of active participation with IEDC. Few people in the field have championed economic development education as enthusiastically and comprehensively as Dr. Maury Forman.

More than two decades ago, Dr. Forman saw a need to create an economic development course in the underserved Northwest region. By reaching out to partners in Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Hawaii, and Washington, he started a training program that has seen nearly 2,000 economic development professionals come through its doors. Not only has the program been a huge success, but it has also led to the creation of two additional courses in Alaska and in British Columbia. Dr. Forman served as an irreplaceable guide to the organizers of these programs.

Dr. Forman has created a robust and well-rounded training program that addresses the diverse needs of economic development professionals in the Northwest. Working across the spectrum of a few large cities, medium sized towns, and rural communities, Dr. Forman has recognized the unique challenges each of these populations face. With considerable forethought, he continuously adapts course content to their needs.

A tenet of Dr. Forman's philosophy on education is the provision of education for all who want to pursue it. He created a scholarship program to offset the cost of registration for communities. Nearly half of all training participants have received full or partial scholarships to attend. He also identified the need to encourage economic developers to become certified. In partnership with the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and the Washington State Department of Community Trade and Economic Development, the number of Certified Economic Developers (CEcDs) more than doubled.

Seeing a void in one of the most trade dependent states in the country, Dr. Forman developed an export certification program for businesses and economic development practitioners in Washington. The two day course and certificate is designed to educate and assist in bringing merchandise to the international market.

Dr. Forman is the author of 14 economic development books, easily recognized by their accessibility and cartoon accompaniments. He is the recipient of several notable awards, including the United States Small Business Administration's Vision Award.

Maury Forman has changed the landscape of economic development education in the Northwest and has created a program that is a shining example for others to emulate. For this reason, the International Economic Development Council is honored to present the 2012 Jeffrey A. Finkle Organizational Leadership Award to Dr. Maury Forman

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.