



INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

The Power of Knowledge and Leadership

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Media Release

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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RE-ELECTS BOARD MEMBERS

Howard Benson's Board Membership Extended for a Two-Year Term

The Board of Directors of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) has re-elected Howard C. Benson, CEO and Founder of National Community Development Services, Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia, to its Board of Directors for a two-year term. Appointments were announced at IEDC's 2010 Annual Conference, which was held September 26-29 in Columbus, Ohio.

"As the world's leading economic development organization for professionals in the field of economic development, IEDC's work has become vital to reviving the current economic environment," said Chair-elect Dennis G. Coleman. *"I look forward to continuing to work with Howard and our other Board members as IEDC carries on with its mission of providing quality information, education, and outstanding development opportunities to our steadfast members and partners."*

Benson heads the 35-employee National Community Development Services, Inc. from its headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. The firm, founded in 1977, pioneered the trend which enabled local communities to develop and fund strategic initiatives that have propelled most of them into the front ranks of successful communities in their regions. Recent statistics show that NCDS client communities have experienced 5-year growth rates of 11.6% versus the U.S. average of 4.4%. 2010 marks NCDS' 33rd year in business. During that time, the firm has worked with over 600 community organizations in helping them develop a winning strategy and raised over \$1.5 billion to implement their strategic plans. An important aspect of their work is benchmarking their client's performance so supporters can see a valid return on dollars invested. NCDS employs a fulltime economist on its staff to implement such tasks.

Before starting NCDS, Benson served for five years as a senior executive of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce where he directed the very successful Forward Atlanta Program. Prior to that, he was on the staff of the Jacksonville, Florida Chamber in a similar capacity. He began his economic development career in a rural community of 18,000 population in 1967 after graduation from Brevard College. He is an active member of both the International Economic Development Council and the American Chamber Executives Association.

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is the premier membership organization dedicated to helping economic development professionals create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities and improve the quality of life in their regions. Serving more than 4,500 members, IEDC represents the largest network of economic development professionals in the world. IEDC provides a diverse range of services, including conferences, certification, professional development, publications, research, advisory services and legislative tracking.