



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FNSB HOSTS NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK CELEBRATION - MAY 7-12, 2018

The greater Fairbanks area joins cities nationwide to increase awareness of jobs and career development programs that enhance local economic impact

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, May 1, 2018 - The Fairbanks North Star Borough will be celebrating **National Economic Development Week from May 7-12**. National Economic Development Week was created and is coordinated by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), the nation’s largest professional membership organization for economic developers. It is being held during the week of the organization’s 92nd anniversary.

Typically, economic development can be described in terms of objectives. These most commonly include the creation of jobs and wealth, and the improvement of quality of life. IEDC specifically defines economic development as “A set of programs and policies that aid in the creation, retention and expansion of jobs; the development of a stable tax base; and the enhancement of wealth.”

Mayors Kassel (FNSB), Matherly (City of Fairbanks) and Ward (City of North Pole) issued a proclamation today that recognizes May 7 – 12, 2018 as Economic Development Week in the Fairbanks North Star Borough and reminds individuals of the importance of this community celebration which supports the expansion of career opportunities and improving quality of life.

“Economic Development Week is a celebration of the positive results that happen when we work together. Our goal is to demonstrate how lives are better as a result of economic development,” says Karl Kassel, FNSB Mayor.

“This will be the second time we have participated and we hope to continue to grow the event with our many economic development partners. Highlights of the week include a “moose on the loose” scavenger hunt with the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation and local businesses, a kick-off party on May 7 at the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center, a guest panel with the Association of Defense Communities at the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce luncheon on May 8 and the Fairbanks Visitor Industry Walk for Charity on May 11,” adds Jeff Stepp, Assistant to the Mayor.

For more information on all of the events, the community can visit www.goldenheartgo.com

In 2017, 170 communities and 188 organizations across North America created campaigns. In 2017, elected officials at the city, county and state level officially proclaimed the celebration week, including Governor Bill Walker of Alaska. Dozens of cities, counties, parishes and provinces signed proclamations across the U.S. and Canada last year, including local mayors Karl Kassel, Jim Matherly and Bryce Ward; as well as Mayor Ethan Berkowitz of Anchorage. The United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) also issued a statement commemorating Economic Development Week.



In the broadest sense, economic development encompasses three major areas:

- Policies that government undertakes to meet broad economic objectives including inflation control, high employment and sustainable growth.
- Policies and programs to provide services including building highways, managing parks and providing medical access to the disadvantaged.
- Policies and programs explicitly directed at improving the business climate through specific efforts, business finance, marketing, neighborhood development, business retention and expansion, technology transfer, real estate development and others.

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Economic Development Week in the Fairbanks North Star Borough has been developed through a partnership with the following organizations:

- Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Office
- Explore Fairbanks
- Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation
- Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Association of Fairbanks
- Alaska Small Business Development Center
- The Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship (Center ICE) at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and
- Fairbanks Arts Association

The official hashtag of the FNSB Economic Development Week is **#GoldenHeartGO**

About National Economic Development Week: Economic Development Week is an event created by the International Economic Development Council to celebrate economic development and the achievements of economic developers. The event will occur for the third time from May 7-12, 2018. Official 2018 hashtags are: #EDW2018 #EconDevWeek #QualityofLife

About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit 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 are engaged in the full range of economic development.