



INTERNATIONAL
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COUNCIL

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Media Release

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WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPER TO RECEIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD

Brenda Hicks-Sorensen Recognized for Successes as a New Player in Economic Development

Acknowledging Brenda Hicks-Sorensen, President of Fond du Lac County Economic Development Corporation (FCEDC), for her exceptional achievements as a new force in the world of economic development, the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) last night presented its 2006 Outstanding New Economic Developer of the Year Award to Ms. Hicks-Sorensen at IEDC's Annual Conference in New York City, New York.

"The Outstanding New Developer" Award honors an individual who has attained exceptional achievement in the first five years of his or her economic development career, and Brenda Hicks-Sorensen has demonstrated just such remarkable accomplishments since her entrée into the business of economic development," said Joseph A. Marinucci, IEDC chairman.

Ms. Hicks-Sorensen has accumulated a long list of accomplishments since beginning her economic development career in July of 2001. Her high energy level, ability to focus on goals and achieve results is known throughout the State of Wisconsin. While working as Economic Development Coordinator for Washington County, Wisconsin, Ms. Hicks-Sorensen developed the Tri-County Industry Clusters; this collaborative initiative served as a model statewide. In September of 2004, Ms. Hicks-Sorensen joined the staff of FCEDC, and in June of 2005, she was named Vice President. In June of 2006, following a comprehensive national search, she was named President of FCEDC. Since Ms. Hicks-Sorensen took the reins at FCEDC as Acting President in August of 2005, the organization has assisted companies in Fond du Lac County receive \$9.84 million in awards, leveraging private investment of over \$35.2 million. These projects created 728 full-time jobs and 40 part-time jobs and helped retain 775 jobs.

In April of this year, Ms. Hicks-Sorensen utilized her personal vacation time to volunteer in Hurricane Katrina-ravaged Hancock County, Mississippi as part of the IEDC Economic Recovery Effort. On top of her outstanding professional achievements, Ms. Hicks-Sorensen's volunteer outreach clearly exemplifies her dedication to economic development and her continued enthusiasm to not only develop her own abilities as an economic development professional, but to use her expertise to improve the lives of others.

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is located in Washington, DC. Its mission is to provide leadership and excellence in economic development for communities, members and partners. IEDC's economic development awards annually recognize excellence in the economic development profession.

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