

**MEDA 2017**  
**Annual Conference**  
*What's Working in*  
*Economic Development*

***DRAFT***

***April 30 – May 2, 2017***

**Hyatt Regency, Chesapeake Bay**

Traditional Economic Development dictates responsibilities for bringing together all the right components of business and government for successful implementation of projects that result in jobs and investment for Maryland. But outside the standard retention, expansion, and attraction methods are significant factors that come into play and contribute to successful results that transform lives. Our conference will focus on a few of these innovative evolutionary ideas that impact What's Working in Economic Development.

**We want to thank our sponsors for their support in making this conference a success!**

Maryland Department of Commerce

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Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore

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**Saturday, April 29, 2017**

**5:00 – 6:00 pm COUNCIL OF PAST PRESIDENTS’ MEETING – BY INVITATION ONLY**  
The Council of Past Presidents’ Annual Meeting is exclusively for Past Presidents.

**6:00 – 8:00 pm EARLY BIRD DINNER AND PAST PRESIDENTS’ RECEPTION**  
The Council of Past Presidents invites MEDA volunteers and early conference arrivals to join them for a buffet dinner. Reservations required.

**Sunday, April 30, 2017**

**11:00 am – 5:00 pm DHCD WELCOME TOUR:** Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center  
Tour of Cambridge

**11:45 am – 4:30 pm MEDA ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT – shotgun start at noon**  
Soft spikes and collared shirts are required; no denim pants or cutoffs. Prizes awarded for first, second, and third place teams; individual prizes for closest to pin and longest drive.  
**Sponsor:** Baltimore Gas & Electric Company  
**Chair:** John M. Wasilisin, President & COO, TEDCO

**4:00 pm HOTEL CHECK-IN BEGINS**

**5:30 pm CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

**6:00 – 7:00 pm WELCOME EARLY BIRD ARRIVALS & NEW MEDA MEMBERS RECEPTION** Hosted by: MEDA Membership Committee  
Celebrate and welcome the members who have joined since June 2016. All registrants have an opportunity to mix and mingle with new members, the MEDA Board of Directors, conference speakers, and sponsors. *Open to all conference registrants!*

**7:00 – 9:00 pm NETWORKING DINNER**  
Join your colleagues for an informal and delicious meal. Bring your business cards and get to know someone new!

**Monday, May 1, 2017**

**8:00 – 8:30 am OPENING BREAKFAST MEDA MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING**  
All MEDA members are encouraged to attend as we vote in the new slate of officers

<b>Year in Review:</b>	Keasha N. Haythe, CEcD, President
<b>Approval of Minutes:</b>	Heather M. Gramm, CEcD, Secretary
<b>Treasurer’s Report:</b>	Sean M. Looney, Treasurer
<b>Membership Report:</b>	Danny K. Thompson, Membership Chair
<b>Election of Officers:</b>	Lawrence F. Twele, CEcD, Past President

**8:30 – 9:30 am**

**OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Gray Swoope, a 30-year veteran of economic development, started with an EDO in rural Mississippi, and went on to serve as Secretary of Commerce for both Florida and Mississippi. Today with VisionFirst Advisors, a division of Butler Snow, LLP, Gray works as both a site consultant and instructor of best practices for EDOs at all levels. Gray’s expertise in Economic Development speaks directly to our theme, *What Works in Economic Development*. His presentation will set the tone and frame the discussions we will have throughout the conference.

Keynote: **Gray Swoope, President & CEO, VisionFirst Advisors**

**9:30 – 9:45 am**

**BREAK**

Take this opportunity to network and meet the exhibitors. Silent Auction items will be on display.

**9:45 – 11:00 am**

**LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP**

As we begin to understand how the vision for our varied communities is linked to economic development, we turn to the leadership within those communities that communicate the vision and provide the resources. Our panel of leaders will discuss how leadership and vision helped transform communities in a changing environment, shift in economy or to address a community need.

**Moderator:** Renèe Winsky, President, Leadership Maryland

**Panelists:** Scott Dorsey, Chairman & CEO, Merritt Properties

Bill Meagher, CEO, Lakeside Creamery

Carla Reid, General Manager/CEO, Washington Suburban Sanitary  
Commission (WSSC)

Marc Dubick, Principal/President, Duball, LLC

Alex Nunèz, Senior VP of Regulatory & External Affairs, BGE

**11:00 – 11:15 am**

**BREAK**

Take this opportunity to network and meet the exhibitors. Silent Auction items will be on display.

**11:15 – 12:30 pm**

**DOMESTIC DISASTER RECOVERY**

When disaster strikes, what significant role does economic development play in recovery? Our panel members will present and discuss the economic development opportunities that arise from disaster.

**Moderator:** Carol Gilbert, Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing & Community Development

**Panelists:** Allan Kittleman, County Executive, Howard County

Senator James Mathias (**invited**)

William Cole, President/CEO, Baltimore Development Corporation  
WATCH Here for additional speakers!

- 12:30 – 2:30 pm**      **LUNCHEON AND ROUNDTABLE WITH GOVERNOR’S CABINET**  
**Moderator:** Sean M. Looney, Vice President, State Government Affairs, Comcast
- Panelists:** James D. Fielder, Jr. PhD, Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission  
R. Michael Gill, Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce  
Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Kenneth C. Holt, Secretary, Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development  
Wendi Peters, Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning  
James F. Ports, Jr., Deputy Secretary for Operations, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Jimmy Rhee, Secretary, Governor’s Office of Minority Affairs  
Kelly M. Schulz, Secretary, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation
- 2:30 – 2:45 pm**      **BREAK**  
Take this opportunity to network and meet the exhibitors. Silent Auction items will be on display.
- 2:45 – 3:45 pm**      **ECONOMIC OUTLOOK WITH ANIRBAN BASU**  
As always, the presentation will deliver an update of Maryland's economic performance in absolute and relative terms. Attention will also be given to improving the state's business climate in ways that are broadly appealing.
- Keynote:** Anirban Basu, Chairman and CEO  
Sage Policy Group, Inc.
- 4:00 – 5:00 pm**      **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORS’ MEETING**  
Directors of Economic Development from counties and cities, and state representatives, will hold their quarterly statewide meeting. (Attendees are welcome to observe if seating is available.)
- 5:30 – 6:30 pm**      **BANQUET RECEPTION**
- 6:30 – 8:30 pm**      **MEDA ANNUAL BANQUET & AWARDS CEREMONY**  
Tonight’s awards ceremony will honor standouts in the field of economic development and the professionals who foster MEDA’s success today.
- 8:30 – 9:30 pm**      **SILENT AUCTION AND RECEPTION**  
Thank you to all of the MEDA members who donated to the Silent Auction! The Silent Auction benefits the Lofton Scholarship Fund for Professional Development. Now’s your chance to place final bids on the coveted auction items to take home and enjoy!

**Tuesday, May 2, 2016**

**8:00 – 9:00 am**

**OPENING BREAKFAST**

**The State of the Industry:** The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) surveys its membership of 5,000 economic development organizations every year about their successes and challenges during the previous year, and their priorities in the year ahead. Jeff will provide a summary of these results, highlighting the latest trends in the economic development industry.

**Keynote:** Jeff Finkle, CEcD, President, International Economic Development Council

**9:00 – 10:00**

**MAKER SPACE PANEL**

Maker space has been defined as collaborative work space for making, learning and exploring. Our panel members will discuss the importance of maker space and how its working to help their various communities provide economic opportunities for their constituents.

**Moderator:** Shannon Landwehr, President, Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore

**Panelists:** Amy Bonitz, Open Works, President & CEO, Baltimore Arts Realty Corporation  
Donna Dodson, Chief Cybersecurity Advisor, NIST, Director NCCOE  
Beth Brewster, Founder, Chesapeake Culinary Center  
WATCH here for additional speakers!

**10:00 – 10:15 am**

**BREAK**

From last year's agenda: This is a quick break to change over to the next panel. Hotel checkout is available until 12 noon!

**10:15 – 11:15 am**

**STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Maryland is home to a diverse and highly educated population. Therefore, in discussing economic development, it is important to factor in not only how it impacts certain communities, but also the role diversity plays at the decision-making table. Our panel of community leaders will discuss the impact diversity plays in Maryland's economy regarding what's working and what could be done to increase inclusiveness.

**Moderator:** Kiesha Haughton, Managing Director, Maryland Women's Business Center

**Panelists:** Sharon Pinder, President/CEO, Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council  
Jimmy Rhee, Secretary, Governor's Office of Minority Affairs  
Roger Campos, Assistant Secretary for Business Development, DHCD  
Tammi Thomas, Vice President for Marketing, TEDCO

**11:15 – 12:15 am**     **IGNITE MARYLAND**

**Moderator: Chris Moyer, Director, Cecil County Economic Development**

Maryland's distinctive economies are highlighted by our Ignite presenters. Topics will focus on the unique aspects (people, place, business) that combine to create successful communities and ultimately sustained economic development.

**12:30 pm**             **ADJOURNMENT**

Closing comments will be made by our board president.