



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**DATE: May 3, 2019**

**CONTACT: Barbara Peterson**  
**EMAIL: [barbp@ci.williston.nd.us](mailto:barbp@ci.williston.nd.us)**

## **Williston Economic Development hosts National Economic Development Week Celebration May 6-10**

*Williston joins cities nationwide to increase awareness of the positive work economic developers do to enhance local economic impact*

Williston Economic Development (WED) will celebrate National Economic Development Week May 6-10. Events and activities will recognize the significance of positive economic development and explain the role of the profession in the Williston community, including the facilitation of the following:

- Policies that support broad economic objectives such as sustainable growth, high workforce needs and affordable housing.
- Policies that benefit the development of quality of life programs, initiatives and events.
- 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.

"IEDC Week provides us the opportunity to educate the public on who we are, what we do, and the value that this office can bring towards the growth of the community and region," said Williston Economic Development Executive Director Shawn Wenko.

WED will offer several events and activities throughout the week including the following:

- May 6, Center for Development Open House 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 113 4<sup>th</sup> Street East. Free and open to public.
- May 7, Williston API Membership Meeting 6:30-9 p.m. at the Grand Williston Hotel. Open to API members and nonmembers.
- May 8, 1 Million Cups Meeting 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the Teton Lounge on the Williston State College Campus. Free coffee while supplies last.
- May 8, Activate Women Social Media Marketing Lunch and Learn 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at the Center for Development. RSVP for free lunch.

- May 9, State of the City Address 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Grand Williston Hotel. Free BBQ while supplies last.
- May 9, Business After Hours 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Aafedt Residence at 1301 University Avenue. Open to Chamber members.
- May 10, Awards and Appreciation Banquet 6-10 p.m. at the Grand Williston Hotel. Reservations required.

Now in its fourth year, National Economic Development Week was created by the International Economic Development Council, the largest professional membership organization for economic developers, in 2016 to recognize the unique role that economic development has in creating vibrant communities with strong economies. More than 250 communities participated in the 2018 campaign across the U.S. and Canada, including Williston.

Wenko said IEDC Week helps recognize the many economic development contributions of both the public and private sectors.

"We saw 63 projects totaling more than \$23 million in private investment come through the office in 2018. These are successful projects that have helped grow and sustain the Williston community. These businesses should be celebrated, and we will see that on Friday night at our awards banquet," said Wenko.

To learn more about Williston Economic Development visit [events.willistondevelopment.com](http://events.willistondevelopment.com).

---

### **About the International Economic Development Council**

The International Economic Development Council is the leading international association for professional economic developers. IEDC supports the work of more than 5,000 economic developers to create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions. Our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial, and federal governments, public-private partnerships, universities and a variety of other institutions.