

Will Tyler White Receives Designation of Certified Economic Developer
from the International Economic Development Council

Will Tyler White, a board member of the Bath Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) recently earned the designation of Certified Economic Developer (CEcD), a national recognition that denotes a mastery of principal skills in economic development, professional attainment and a commitment to personal and professional growth.

The CEcD designation recognizes qualified and dedicated practitioners in the economic development field and sets the standard of excellence within the profession. Candidates must pass a rigorous and comprehensive three-part, two-day examination, which tests a practitioner's knowledge, proficiency and judgment in the key areas of economic development, including business retention and expansion, marketing, finance, workforce development, community development, entrepreneurial and small business development, real estate, strategic planning, technology-led economic development and management.

The CEcD exam was administered by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) on May 31 and June 1 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. During twelve years of economic development experience, Mr. White made important contributions as a board member with the Meridian Township Economic Development Corporation and Okemos DDA. A significant accomplishment was helping found of the MARC business incubator located in downtown Okemos. Most recently he has led the effort to establish a CSA project (Community Supported Agriculture) with the Bath DDA. The Bath Community Garden is the first such enterprise in Bath Township, while there are at least 90 community gardens in the greater Lansing area.

As highly competent economic development practitioners, Certified Economic Developers work with public officials, business leaders and community members to create leadership and maximize the economic development sector. Excellence in this profession improves the well being, quality of life and opportunities for individuals, businesses and communities. There are currently over 1,000 active CEcDs in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

About IEDC:

The International Economic Development Council is a nonprofit membership organization serving economic developers (<http://www.iedconline.org>). With more than 4,000 members, IEDC is the largest group of its kind and presents conferences throughout the country from its headquarters in Washington DC. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life in 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 experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. When we succeed, our members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions.

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