

Juneau County Economic Development Corporation

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JCEDC wins Award

Acknowledging JCEDC for its exceptional entrepreneurship program, the International Economic Development Council presented an award at IEDC's Annual Conference, held in Reno, Nevada, October 4-7. The award was made to Terry Whipple, JCEDC Executive Director, during the awards ceremony on Tuesday, October 6th.

During the conference, Whipple also served as a presenter on the topic of "Changing the Culture: Support for Entrepreneurship."

"Furthering economic development is rarely a simple task in the best of times, and advancing the cause in the midst of a global financial crisis is nothing less than arduous," said Ian Bromley, IEDC chair. "As the consequences of the widespread economic turmoil have taken hold, we have seen our members become even more ardent proponents of economic development, flying in the face of one of the most challenging economic environments we have experienced in our careers. We proudly present this award to the Juneau County Economic Development Corporation for its superior work during these difficult times."

Competing in the category of Entrepreneurship Program by organizations serving areas with populations under 50,000, JCEDC was a clear standout with the Inventors and Entrepreneurs Club (I&E Club), the first such club in the nation.



The club concept was to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship at the grass-roots level and bring together inventors, entrepreneurs, investors and resources so that all the talents needed to create a successful business are involved. By focusing efforts on nurturing business enterprise growth from within the region, the local economy becomes less susceptible to volatility of the larger U.S. economy and more able to grasp new opportunities and new niches as the environment changes. This grass roots effort has become a feeder system to all state and local resources. It has proven to be an extremely efficient, cost effective program and has been replicated across the country.

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

"It takes courage to push yourself to places that you have never been before...to test your limits...to break through barriers"