



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Consultant Connect Announces 2026 North America's Top 50 Economic Developers

KALAMAZOO, Michigan – Consultant Connect, a consulting agency dedicated to bridging the gap between economic developers and site location consultants, is proud to announce its 2026 list of *North America's Top 50 Economic Developers*.

This annual recognition honors outstanding economic development professionals who are nominated by their peers in both the economic development and site consulting industries. Nominees are selected for their exemplary leadership, innovative strategies, and measurable impact in building thriving communities.

Beginning June 5, Consultant Connect will highlight each of the Top 50 Economic Developers on LinkedIn. These spotlights will offer recipients the opportunity to share insights on industry trends, leadership, and career development—creating a platform for peer-to-peer learning and recognition.

The 2026 Top 50 recipients will be officially recognized and presented with their awards during the ECONOMIX event, hosted by Consultant Connect on November 10 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

“At Consultant Connect, we believe economic development goes beyond infrastructure and investment—it’s about creating opportunities that transform lives,” said a spokesperson from Consultant Connect. “We’re honored to shine a spotlight on these exceptional leaders who are driving meaningful change across North America.”

For more information about the award and to follow the 2026 honorees, connect with Consultant Connect on LinkedIn or visit [consultantconnect.org](https://www.consultantconnect.org).

The complete list of North America's Top 50 Economic Developers of 2026 includes

-more-

Adam Murray

Tennessee Valley Authority

Amy Hilliard

City of Prattville, AL

April Gray

Alabama Department of Commerce

Ayla Brandt

Miami-Dade Beacon Council

Barbara Koldos

New North, Inc.

Ben Williamson

City of Farmers Branch

Brad Reams

Great Plains Industrial Park

Brian Garcia

Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance

Cari Meloche

Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership

Carlos Guzman

Fort Bend County Economic
Opportunity & Development

Caroline Mungenast

Birmingham Business Alliance

Chad Quick

City Of Altoona, Iowa

Conor Eckert

Orange County Partnership

Daniel Beaty

South Carolina Department of Commerce

David Ginn

The Charleston Regional Development Alliance

Doug McDonald

City of Plano

Emma Keserich

Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance

Gina Rittinger

REDI Cincinnati

Heather Ledbetter

Oncor Electric

Jennifer Brown

Palmetto Railways

Jenny Zeifelder

Carrollton Economic Development

Jerry W. Jones Jr.

Pflugerville Community
Development Corporation

JT Warren

Greater Winston-Salem, Inc.

Julia Boas

Roanoke Regional Partnership

Karen Davison

Chester County Economic Development

Kevin Jackson

Shoals Economic Development
Authority

Kyle Touchstone

Raleigh Economic Development

Lakesha Mathis

Greater St Louis Inc

Lauren Bryson

Focus Central Pennsylvania

Lauren Slusher

Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office,
Office of the Governor

Leigh Seeger

Jeffco EDC

Luke Peltz

Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development

Marc Hoenstine

Duke Energy Florida

Matthew Hurlbutt

Greater Rochester Enterprise

Megan Lucas

Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance

Meghan Huber

The City of Citrus Heights

Melanie Sheldon

Nevada Governor's Office of
Economic Development

Mike Kamerlander

Hays Caldwell Economic
Development Partnership

Nick Triska

Greater Portland Inc

Pat Hickey

Evansville Regional Economic Partnership

Patrick O'Malia

City of Streetsboro, OH

Randi Mason

Decide DeKalb Development Authority

Ray French

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

Rob Denham

Invest Atlanta

Robyn Sellers

City of Nampa

Ron McMahan

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

Steve Fritsch

Team NEO

Thomas Maynard

Greater Phoenix Economic Council

Tim Mroz

The Right Place, Inc.

Victoria Pratt

Forward Wichita Falls

About Consultant Connect

Consultant Connect works to bridge the gap between leading economic developers and site location consultants through exclusive networking events, educational services and leadership development. Consultant Connect not only gives economic developers an inside look into the world of site selection – it gives them the applicable information necessary to propel their careers and communities forward. For more information, please visit www.consultantconnect.org.

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