



TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

2026 Annual Conference Draft Agenda

Wednesday, October 7th, 2026

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Stop Marketing Your Community Like Everyone Else

Presenter: Aaron Brossoit, CEO, Golden Shovel Agency

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

The Future of Texas Talent: Education, Industry, and Economic Growth

Presenters: Greg Vaughn, Employer Partnership Specialist; Kymberlaine Banks, Deputy Director of Business and Industry Engagement, Educate Texas and Tiffani Polk, Deputy Director of Pathways, Educate Texas

11:30 PM - 12:30 PM

Executive Committee Meeting

12:45 PM - 1:00 PM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Community Opposition

Presenters: Bob Hess, Vice Chairman, Newmark and Christian Koenig, Managing Principal, KOEING Communications

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

The Work Behind the Win: What 500+ Economic Developers Have Taught Me

Presenter: Dane Carlson, CEO, Sitehunt

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Networking Break

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

The Future Is Already Here: Inside the AI-Powered EDO

Presenter: Katie Milton Jordan, Founder & CEO, SimpleEDO.ai

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Education is Infrastructure

Presenter: Robbye Kirkpatrick, Founder, Texas TransformED

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

The Technology Conundrum

Presenter: Jon Roberts, Managing Partner, TIP Strategies, Inc.

5:30 PM - 6:45 PM

Reception & Networking

Thursday, October 8th, 2026

7:15 AM - 8:15 AM

Breakfast & Networking

8:00 AM - 8:15 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

8:15 AM - 9:15 AM

Fireside Chat

Moderator: Carlton Schwab, President/CEO Texas Economic Development Council **Panelist:** Bob Hess, Vice Chairman, Newmark

Thursday, October 8th, 2026

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

One Month Out, Y'all: Texas Politics in 2026 and Beyond

Presenter: Evan Smith, Managing Director for Events, The Atlantic

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM

Coffee Break

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Who's Buying, and How to Sell

Presenters: Drew Scheberle, Co-Founder and Executive Director, National Security Innovation Council and Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Anthony A. "Tony" Cucolo III, President & CEO, PCSI

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Awards Luncheon

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Networking Break

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

No Power, No Project

Presenters: Will McAdams, Founder/President, McAdams Energy Group and Joshua Rhodes, UT Austin, Research Scientist, Webber Energy Group

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

TBD

Presenter: David Gow, CEO, Center for Houston's Future

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Sustainable Economic Development: The Challenge and Opportunity in Texas

Presenters: Randall Kempner, President, Prosperity Strategies; Eva Rosenbloom, Manager, RMI

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Networking Break

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Texas on a Global Stage: Navigating Global Opportunities by Engaging Effectively with the State of Texas International Offices

Presenters: Office of the Governor of Texas

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

From Listings to Results: What Drives Engagement with Property Data

Presenter: Ron Bertasi, CEO, GIS WebTech

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Reception & Networking

Friday, October 9th, 2026

7:15 AM - 8:30 AM

Breakfast & Networking

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Texas Transformation: Houston's Role in the Life Science Boom

Panel: Craig Rhodes, Economic Development, Greater Houston Partnership; Shawn Cloonan, CEO, McCord Development and Christopher Wild, Provost, San Jacinto College

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Taquerias Are More Than Businesses

Presenter: José R. Ralat, Taco Editor, Texas Monthly

Friday, October 9th, 2026

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Chaos, Cacophony, Calamity, and Capriciousness: Making Sense Out of the Current Economy

Presenter: Dr. Ray Perryman, President/CEO, The Perryman Group

11:00 AM - 11:45 AM

Board of Director's Meeting