

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 7-9, 2026



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Welcome to the TEDC 2026 Annual Conference



Adrian Cannady
TEDC's 2026 Board Chair
President/CEO, Temple Economic
Development Corporation

On behalf of the TEDC and our Board of Directors, I want to thank you for participating in our Annual Conference in Houston, Texas! Our conference program is filled with an impressive lineup of speakers, session topics, panel discussions and 36 exhibitors. There's really something for everyone and plenty of networking opportunities.

Our 2026-2027 Annual Sponsors and the Annual Conference Sponsors are vital to the success of the TEDC. We simply could not produce the quality programs and develop the resources you need without their support. Please join me in taking a moment sometime during the event by thanking them for their support.

We hope that you will consider bidding on items at the Annual PAC Silent Auction. The Auction is the TEDC PAC's most important fundraiser of the year and the monies raised support the TEDC's Political Action Committee and candidates who support a pro-economic development environment in our state.

At our Awards Luncheon on Thursday, the TEDC will recognize the recipients and applicants of the 2026 Community Economic Development Award. We will honor those economic developers and communities for their achievements in economic development this past year. The TEDC will also recognize the recent graduates of the Texas Certified Economic Developer program (CTED) which the TEDC and TEEX launched in 2024 as Texas' only professional certification for economic development.

It has been another fabulous year to be a part of an organization that continues to grow in stature and influence – none of which could be accomplished without the strong support of our members -- undoubtedly our greatest resource. The TEDC membership is now more than 1,200 strong -- a testament to the growth and strength of our organization.

I am honored to be a part of the TEDC leadership that has a long legacy of providing best practices for economic development professionals through education, advocacy, resources and networking. Please join me in thanking our great TEDC staff for their hard work on this event. And, thank you again for your support of the Texas Economic Development Council and for attending this year's Annual Conference.

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026

10:30–11:30 AM	Stop Marketing Your Community Like Everyone Else <i>Aaron Brossoit, CEO, Golden Shovel Agency</i>	Legends Ballroom
10:30–11:30 AM	The Future of Texas Talent: Education, Industry, and Economic Growth <i>Greg Vaughn, Employer Partnership Specialist; Kymberlaine Banks, Deputy Director of Business and Industry Engagement, and Tiffani Polk, Deputy Director of Pathways, Educate Texas</i>	Discovery Center A
12:45–5:30 PM	Exhibits Open	Foyer
12:45–1:00 PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Adrian Cannady, President & CEO, Temple EDC</i>	Legends Ballroom
1:00–2:00 PM	Building Consensus: A Clear Path Forward for the Data Center Industry in Texas <i>Bob Hess, Vice Chairman, Newmark and Christian Koenig, Managing Principal, KOENIG Communications</i>	Legends Ballroom
2:00–3:00 PM	The Work Behind the Win: What 500+ Economic Developers Have Taught Me <i>Dane Carlson, CEO, Sitehunt</i>	Legends Ballroom
3:00–3:30 PM	Networking Break <i>Sponsored by: Economic Leadership</i>	Legends Foyer
3:30–4:30 PM	The Future Is Already Here: Inside the AI-Powered EDO <i>Katie Milton Jordan, Founder & CEO, SimpleEDO.ai</i>	Legends Ballroom
3:30–4:30 PM	Education is Infrastructure <i>Robbye Kirkpatrick, Founder, Texas TransformED</i>	Discovery Center A
4:30–5:30 PM	The Technology Conundrum <i>Jon Roberts, Managing Partner, TIP Strategies, Inc.</i>	Legends Ballroom
5:30–6:45 PM	Welcome Reception <i>Sponsored by: AEP Texas</i>	Legends Foyer

This event is recognized by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) as a professional development training that counts toward the recertification of the Certified Economic Developers (CEcD).



INTERNATIONAL
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COUNCIL

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026

7:15–8:15 AM	Breakfast & Networking <i>Sponsored by: Brookshire Economic Development Corporation</i>	Legends Foyer
7:15–8:15 AM	New Member Breakfast	Champions III
8:00 AM–5:00 PM	Exhibits Open	Foyer
8:00–8:15 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks <i>Adrian Cannady, President & CEO, Temple EDC and Sydney Loyed, Director, Team Texas</i>	Legends Ballroom
8:15–9:15 AM	Fireside Chat <i>Moderator: Carlton Schwab, President/CEO, TEDC</i> <i>Panelist: Bob Hess, Vice Chairman, Newmark</i>	Legends Ballroom
9:15–10:15 AM	One Month Out, Y'all: Texas Politics in 2026 and Beyond <i>Evan Smith, Managing Director for Events, The Atlantic</i>	Legends Ballroom
10:15–10:30 AM	Coffee Break	Legends Foyer
10:30–11:30 PM	Who's Buying, and How to Sell <i>Drew Scheberle, Co-Founder and Executive Director, National Security Innovation Council; Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Anthony A. "Tony" Cucolo III, President/CEO, PCSI and Jordan Robinson, President/CEO, Round Rock Chamber</i>	Discovery Center A
11:30 AM–1:00 PM	TEDC's Award Luncheon <i>Sponsored by: ZacTax</i>	Legends Ballroom
1:00–1:30 PM	Break	
1:00–1:30 PM	Learn About the Certified Texas Economic Developer Program (CTED)	Discovery Center A
1:00–5:30 PM	TEDC PAC Silent Auction Open	Discovery Center B
1:30–2:30 PM	No Power, No Project <i>Moderator: Matt Abel, Vice President of Government Relations, TEDC</i> <i>Panelists: Will McAdams, Founder/President, McAdams Energy Group and Joshua Rhodes, UT Austin, Research Scientist, Webber Energy Group</i>	Legends Ballroom
2:30–3:30 PM	Developing the Brain Economy in Houston and Beyond <i>David Gow, CEO, Center for Houston's Future</i>	Legends Ballroom
2:30–3:30 PM	Sustainable Economic Development: The Challenge and Opportunity in Texas <i>Randall Kempner, President, Prosperity Strategies and Eva Rosenbloom, Manager, RMI</i>	Discovery Center A
3:30–4:00 PM	Networking Break <i>Sponsored by: CivicServe and TX-Pace</i>	Legends Foyer

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026

4:00–5:00 PM	Texas on a Global Stage: Navigating Global Opportunities by Engaging Effectively with the State of Texas International Offices <i>Moderator: Adriana Cruz, Executive Director, Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office, Office of the Governor</i> <i>Panelists: James Taylor, Director, State of Texas Mexico Office and State of Texas UK Office; Claire Craig, Director for Trade & Investment, State of Texas UK Office in London; Steve Venuti, Director, State of Texas Taiwan Office; Tal Shmueli, Director, State of Texas Israel Office</i>	Legends Ballroom
4:00–5:00 PM	From Listings to Results: What Drives Engagement with Property Data <i>Ron Bertasi, CEO, GIS WebTech</i>	Discovery Center A
5:00–5:30 PM	TEDC PAC Silent Auction Final Bids	Discovery Center B
5:00–6:30 PM	Networking Reception <i>Sponsored by: Government Capital Corporation</i>	Legends Foyer

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026

7:15–8:15 AM	Breakfast & Networking <i>Sponsored by: Houston-Galveston Area Council</i>	Legends Foyer
8:00–9:00 AM	Texas Transformation: Houston's Role in the Life Science Boom <i>Moderator: Craig Rhodes, Economic Development, Greater Houston Partnership</i> <i>Panelists: Shawn Cloonan, CEO, McCord Development and Christopher Wild, Provost, San Jacinto College</i>	Legends Ballroom
9:00–10:00 AM	Taquerias Are More Than Businesses <i>José R. Ralat, Taco Editor, Texas Monthly</i>	Legends Ballroom
10:00–11:00 AM	Chaos, Cacophony, Calamity, and Capriciousness: Making Sense Out of the Current Economy <i>Dr. Ray Perryman, President/CEO, The Perryman Group</i>	Legends Ballroom
11:00–11:45 AM	TEDC Annual Meeting and Board of Director's Meeting (Open to All)	Champions III

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