



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2013

Contact: Elizabeth Arevalo

561.835.1008, cell 846-2832

earevalo@bdb.org

Business Development Board Receives High Marks

West Palm Beach, Fla. – The Business Development Board of Palm Beach County (BDB) has announced that the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) has once again recognized the BDB as one of 38 economic development organizations nationally accredited by IEDC as an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO). Originally accredited in September of 2007, the organization was reaccredited by IEDC yesterday after undergoing a very rigorous evaluation process.

“The BDB displays the professionalism, commitment, and technical expertise that is deserving of this honor,” said IEDC President and CEO Jeff Finkle.

“The distinction of accreditation by IEDC as an AEDO is a source of pride for the BDB, its employees, stakeholders and Palm Beach County,” said Kelly Smallridge, BDB President and CEO. “The AEDO designation demonstrates the BDB’s commitment to marketing Palm Beach County as an ideal business location and showcasing the competitiveness of our business environment.”

The AEDO program is a comprehensive peer review process that measures economic development organizations against commonly held standards in the profession. The program consists of two phases: a documentation review and an onsite visit. Each phase is designed to evaluate information about the structure, organization, funding, program, and staff of the candidate economic development organization.

Earning the AEDO accreditation tells the community and prospects that the BDB attained a measure of excellence assuring that their trust is well placed and their business is in good hands. Maintenance of the AEDO status is required every three years and is accomplished through documentation submission and/or onsite visits by a team of the AEDO subcommittee.

The International Economic Development Council is the largest membership association serving economic and community development professionals in the world. With over 4,400 members nationwide and abroad, IEDC offers the economic development profession one source for information and professional development, one voice for the profession and one force for advocacy. For more information on IEDC or the AEDO program, call Tye Libby at (202) 942-9450; fax (202) 223-4745; write to IEDC at 734 15th Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005; email tlibby@iedconline.org; or visit IEDC's website at www.iedconline.org.

About the BDB: The Business Development Board of Palm Beach County is the official public/private economic development organization for Palm Beach County and Enterprise Florida. Founded in 1982 as a not-for-profit corporation, our primary purpose is to attract and retain new industry, business investment, high quality jobs and workforce development through corporate relocations, expansions and international trade. During the past five years, the BDB has assisted companies that have created more than 10,000 direct jobs with average salaries greater than \$58,000, resulting in more than \$595 million in capital investment to Palm Beach County and an economic impact that exceeds \$4.1 billion. Additional information can be found at the BDB's Web site, BDB.org.

###