



For Release 9:00 A.M. EST

January 10, 2020

## **INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (IEDC) AWARDS KENNETH DOBSON ITS 2019 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

On Monday, October 14, 2019, the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), honored Kenneth Dobson by bestowing upon him its 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award for career-long Excellence in Economic Development.

The Award was presented in memory of, Ed deLuca, the founder of organized professional economic development in America through the National Council for Urban Economic Development (CUED).

In addition to the most recent Lifetime Achievement Award for a career of Excellence in Economic Development by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), this premier worldwide trade association has also granted Mr. Dobson the designation of Honorary Life Member {HLM}, and Fellow Member (FM). Additionally, the IEDC has conferred on Mr. Dobson the Richard Preston Award for Excellence in Economic Development Education, and honorable recognition for his innovative (a) tech-driven capacity-building incubator in emerging building and construction technologies, and (b) the clean and green building learning laboratory at The University of Toledo.

The following is how the IEDC memorialized Mr. Dobson's career body of work and contributions to the state-of-the-art of urbanregional economic development at the 2019 Awards Recognition Dinner.

*Each year, the International Economic Development Council selects an individual to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. This Award honors an individual who has been a long-time and influential leader in economic development.*

*Kenneth Dobson, fellow member and honorary life member of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), has dedicated over 40 years of his career to the field of economic development. As the first African American hired by the National Council for Urban Economic Development (CUED) and among one of the few African Americans working in economic development at the start of his career, Mr. Dobson has been a trailblazer and role model in the field. His experiences traverse boundaries, including cities of all sizes and locations, fiscal, and economic challenges.*

*Mr. Dobson's economic development career path began with his selection as a program manager with the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Ed deLuca, then Founder of CUED, recruited him to be the organization's Director of Community Advisory Services Division. At CUED, Mr. Dobson helped deliver technical assistance to client cities and regions.*

*In the past forty years, Mr. Dobson has served as Vice President of Commercial Real Estate Development at the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, Executive Vice President for the Detroit Downtown Development Authority, Senior Vice President of the Kensley Eco-Development Company, and most recently as the Economic Development Administrator of Fulton County, Georgia. He has led and participated in many large development projects, such as the development of diversified mixed-use real estate, tech-based, commercial office, and retail developments, including small and minority-owned businesses. At the Detroit Downtown Development Authority, he worked with a real estate portfolio valued at over \$5 billion. Mr. Dobson was also a significant facilitator in sourcing government funds for the \$1.25 billion construction of the Daimler-Chrysler Jeep Assembly Plant in Toledo, Ohio.*

*Mr. Dobson's extensive involvements include international economic development engagements with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in China. Additionally, he has been an advocate and participant in other international missions, including as a foreign domestic investment representative in Copenhagen, Denmark, Toyota Japan, and India.*

*As a leader and trailblazer in the field, Mr. Dobson has served on several boards, including IEDC and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). By testifying on behalf of IEDC, he has also made contributions to*

*crucial federal government policy reforms related to advancing local economic development progress. For his extensive work, Mr. Dobson has received multiple awards, including the Economic Development Innovation Award, and IEDC's Richard Preston Excellence Award for Leadership in Economic Development Education.*

*Mr. Dobson has been deeply engaged in public speaking and teaming economic development topics regarding technology-based and sustainable development and their impact on urban regional base in American communities. In retirement, he is working on several books on re-urbanization and next-gen economic development, dedicated in memory of his mentor and friend, Mr. deLuca.*

*Mr. Dobson has been an exemplary leader in both his community and the economic development field, and for that reason, the International Economic Development Council is honored to present Ken Dobson, HLM, FM with the Life Achievement Award.*