



For Immediate Release

**At the Crossroads of Trade and Transformation:
Laredo Celebrates Economic Development Week 2026
May 4–8, 2026**

Laredo, Texas – At a pivotal moment for the nation’s economy—shaped by decisions in Washington and shifting dynamics around the world—Laredo is emerging as a focal point in the future of the American supply chain. As attention increasingly turns to the U.S.–Mexico border and the critical role it plays in global trade, the Laredo Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) is proud to lead the community’s participation in the 2026 Economic Development Week, a global initiative of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

Positioned at the center of the Western Hemisphere and as the premier U.S.–Mexico trade gateway, Laredo continues to gain national and international recognition as industries rethink supply chains, nearshoring accelerates, and policymakers focus on trade resilience and infrastructure. In response, local leaders are actively working to grow and diversify the Laredo economy, ensuring long-term competitiveness in an evolving global marketplace.

For Laredo, Economic Development Week is more than a celebration—it is a platform to highlight momentum, engage stakeholders, and shape the next phase of growth. “Economic Development Week puts Laredo—and the future of U.S. trade—front and center at a time when the border economy is gaining unprecedented attention,” said David A. Stedman, President and CEO of LEDC. “As we move from gateway to growth engine, this week showcases the opportunities ahead through a robust series of programs, speakers, and discussions. It reflects how our community is coming together to strengthen partnerships, drive innovation, and build a more diversified and resilient economy for the future.” Since 2011, LEDC has played a pivotal role in strengthening Laredo’s economic landscape, facilitating nearly \$1.5 billion in capital investment, creating more than 6,600 new jobs, retaining over 500 positions, and supporting more than \$239 million in expansions.

This year’s theme, “100 Years of Impact,” recognizes IEDC’s centennial anniversary and 100 years of leadership in economic development. Economic Development Week presents an opportunity to examine the evolution of economic development, celebrate our successes today, and lay the groundwork for the next era of prosperity for our community.



"As we reflect on a century of economic development, the role of economic developers has never been more important," said IEDC President and CEO Nathan Ohle. "Economic Development Week is an opportunity to celebrate transformational economic development in communities around the world. At the heart of Economic Development Week are success stories of how the field works together to support, cultivate, and drive economic prosperity for people and places everywhere."

Event Highlights

- Proclamation Day
- Small Business Forum
- State of Transportation & Infrastructure Forum
- State of Economic Development Forum
- Spring Membership & Networking Mixer
- Business Expo & Job Fair

These events will provide a platform for discussion on critical issues including infrastructure investment, workforce development, small business growth, and strategies to expand Laredo's economic base beyond its traditional strengths.

A Defining Moment for Laredo

As global supply chains are restructured and national priorities shift toward resilience, security, and domestic production, Laredo stands uniquely positioned to lead. What was once viewed primarily as a port of entry is rapidly evolving into a strategic hub for advanced manufacturing, logistics, energy, and data-driven industries.

With unmatched trade volumes, expanding infrastructure, and a growing ecosystem of public and private sector collaboration, Laredo is not just participating in the future of the American economy—it is helping define it. Increasingly, the conversation is no longer about whether the border economy matters, but how communities like Laredo will shape the next generation of U.S. competitiveness.

Economic Development Week 2026 underscores that reality: Laredo is not simply at the crossroads of trade—it is becoming a national model for how border communities drive innovation, investment, and long-term economic growth.

For more information, please contact the Laredo Economic Development Corporation at (956) 722-0563.



About the Laredo Economic Development Corporation

Mission:

Established on November 17, 1966, the Laredo Economic Development Corporation aims to encourage and nurture economic and industrial growth in the Laredo and Webb County region.

Vision:

The Laredo Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) is characterized by its visionary leadership, known for its integrity and significant contributions to the economic development and vitality of Los Dos Laredos.

In 2000, the LEDC became the first in Texas and the 17th in the nation to be certified as an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO) by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). The LEDC has upheld this prestigious status through re-certifications in 2014, 2018, and 2022, making it one of only 83 accredited organizations out of over 11,000 nationwide.

In 2023, the LaredoEDC received a Silver Award from IEDC for its innovative activities during Economic Development Week. Additionally, in March 2024, the IEDC's Marketing Advisory Committee invited the LaredoEDC staff to collaborate and showcase their efforts as a model for other AEDOs across the country. The LEDC also earned two Bronze Level Awards for Excellence in Economic Development from the IEDC for the 2025 cycle, recognizing its achievements in the Magazine & Newsletter category with "Border Insight: Laredo is on the Rise" and for its initiatives during Economic Development Week 2024.

About the International Economic Development Council

IEDC is the world's largest association for economic developers. Originating a century ago, IEDC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that represents the entire economic development profession. Members are employed in various settings, including local, state, provincial, and federal governments, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities, and a variety of other institutions.

IEDC is the leading voice in driving the future of the field. It provides learning, networking, research, policy advocacy, partnerships, and other valuable offerings to economic development professionals worldwide. www.IEDC.org

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