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**WindsorEssex Small Business Centre Receives Silver Award  
from the International Economic Development Council**

WASHINGTON, DC (Sept. 19, 2017) – The WindsorEssex Small Business Centre won a **Silver Excellence in Economic Development Award for its *Small Business Website*, a project in the category of General Purpose Website of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).**

The honor was presented to **Sabrina Demarco, Executive Director of the Small Business Centre** at an awards ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 19, during the IEDC Annual Conference, which was held Sept. 17 - 20, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

“On behalf of the IEDC board of directors and Excellence in Economic Development Awards Advisory Committee, congratulations to the WindsorEssex Small Business Centre. Not only did they work to provide a necessary service to their community; but also, their participation in the awards program sheds light on their stellar projects which other communities can now use as a benchmark.” - Michael Langley, FM, CEO of GREATER MSP, Minneapolis–St. Paul, MN, and 2017 IEDC Board Chair

As a department of the WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation, the Small Business Centre in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Growth provides entrepreneurs with the support necessary to start and grow successful businesses. The website is the premier one-stop site for starting a business in the Windsor-Essex region. The website is a hub of information directing users through rules/regulations, financial incentives, writing a business proposal, import/export, marketing, taxation, hiring, and more. It is an important strategic marketing tool demonstrating the Centre’s mandate and services and works to educate and foster the development of entrepreneurship. It is an invaluable website for entrepreneurs to bookmark and visit regularly for their business needs.

“The awards process is a thorough, non-biased and multi-layered process. These are extraordinary accomplishments for all winners, and an overall great effort by all participants. We look forward to next year’s awards competition,” Langley said.

**About the International Economic Development Council**

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC’s members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. Among many activities which benefit the economy, IEDC’s members create high-quality jobs and develop vibrant communities. [www.iedcONLINE.org](http://www.iedcONLINE.org).

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