



## **Think Dutchess Alliance for Business Receives Excellence in Economic Development Award from the International Economic Development Council**

October 12, 2021

WASHINGTON, DC – Last week, *Think Dutchess Alliance for Business* won a **Gold Rank** for its *Think Dutchess 2020 Annual Report*, a project in the category of *Annual Report* of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). The honor was presented Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at an awards ceremony during the IEDC Annual Conference.

IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders. 25 award categories honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities. Awards are judged by a diverse panel of economic and community developers, following a nomination process held earlier this year. IEDC received over 500 submissions from 4 countries.

“We’re incredibly honored to receive this award,” said Think Dutchess CEO, Sarah Lee. “Think Dutchess strives not only to market the county as a great place to live and work, but also to educate and support our community to assure economic prosperity. We are thrilled to report such terrific success in a year filled with uncertainty.”

This past year certainly highlighted the critical value of every economic development organization’s ability to create and support industry-diverse, healthy economies. Since 2016, Think Dutchess has strived to market Dutchess County, NY’s economic assets to attract and retain a diverse set of businesses that will improve the county’s economic health and vitality. This year, it was vitally important to communicate with everyone the role they play and the successes they were able to achieve despite enormous setbacks.

In its first annual report, Think Dutchess created an interactive impact report that not only shared data and information, but integrated multi-media sources to tell the story of how they accomplished these feats. Using video from events, interactive links from campaigns and videos, and traditional storytelling using images and text, they were able to create a different kind of report that allowed the user to see a 360° view of economic development.

In addition to reporting important facts and figures including total investment, jobs reports and key projects, the report promotes the quality of the community and government partnerships, and is a testament to their commitment to supporting business of all kinds through any challenging circumstance.

“The winners of IEDC’s Excellence in Economic Development awards represent the best of economic development and exemplify the leadership that our profession strives for every day,” said 2021 IEDC Board Chair and Invest Buffalo Niagara, President, and CEO Tom Kucharski. “We’re honored to recognize the more than 100 communities whose marketing submissions, projects, and partnerships have improved regional quality of life.”

We're incredibly honored to recognize the outstanding organizations that received this year's Excellence Awards. This year, more than ever, has presented opportunities to innovate, impact, and progress the cities,

neighborhoods, and communities around us. Each of this year's recipients represents the best of the economic development profession and exemplifies the ingenuity for fellow economic developers to aspire to in the years to come.

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### **About the International Economic Development Council**

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit, non-partisan 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 engage in the full range of economic development experiences. Given the breadth of economic development work, our 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. When we succeed, our members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions. Learn more at [iedconline.org](http://iedconline.org).

### **About Think Dutchess Alliance for Business**

Think Dutchess Alliance for Business is the one-stop shop for business development needs and activities in Dutchess County, New York. A business-led, nationally recognized economic development corporation, Think Dutchess' mission is to attract, retain, and expand for-profit and not-for-profit businesses in Dutchess County. Think Dutchess' organizational structure includes programs in business retention, expansion and attraction; financial counseling and deal structuring; zoning and permitting; commercial real estate; innovation and technology; strategic marketing and municipal advocacy. For more information about Think Dutchess Alliance for Business, visit [www.thinkdutchess.com](http://www.thinkdutchess.com)