

Greetings!

On behalf of the state of Utah, I would like to invite you to participate in the IEDC Economic Future Forum that will be held in Salt Lake City in 2019.

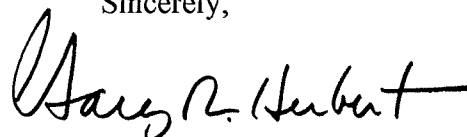
As governor, I can assure you that you will enjoy the sights and scenes of Salt Lake City and beyond. Fodor's Travel named Utah the No. 1 travel destination in 2016. Utah is the only state to earn a Michelin star. Our urban areas, mountains, and red rock country have outstanding cultural and recreation opportunities. You can backpack through one of Utah's "Mighty Five" national parks or visit one of our world-class theaters, museums, and concert halls downtown in Salt Lake City.

And although our state's grandeur and attractiveness are reason enough to join us in Salt Lake City this summer, perhaps the most important reason for you, as a person interested in understanding economic performance, is the opportunity to understand better the Utah economic miracle.

When I took office, at the trough of the Great Recession in August 2009, I set a goal for Utah to become the number one economy in the nation. Today, Utah boasts the nation's fastest growing and most diverse economy. My focus has been to create a business-friendly environment and make Utah the best place to do business. We attract businesses and investment into the state while helping our homegrown businesses flourish. Over the past decade, we have experienced unparalleled growth and prosperity. In the past eight years, *Forbes* magazine ranks Utah in the top three "Best State for Business."

I wish to extend my thanks to the IEDC Economic Futures Forum Conference Board, staff and countless others who offer their time to make the forum a success. We look forward to hosting you in the great State of Utah next year. Best wishes for a *Life Elevated* experience in Utah in 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary R. Herbert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gary R. Herbert
Governor