



# *Welcome*

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
2019 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

On behalf of Broward County and Greater Fort Lauderdale, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the International Economic Development Council's 2019 Leadership Summit.

This year's theme, "Waves of Change," will provide economic development leaders tools they can use to succeed and thrive. In recent years, Broward County and Greater Fort Lauderdale have seen local governments, the public school district, universities, private businesses, non-profit organizations, workforce agencies, healthcare institutions, and more working together for the greater good of the community, which has led to tremendous progress for Broward.

The perception of Broward County as a great place for business has evolved since the 2008 recession. At that time, only 48% of site location consultants and corporate real estate agents that were surveyed nationwide had a positive or very positive view of our community. In 2015, that number jumped to over 93%. This phenomenal increase of 105% can be attributed in part to new collaborations that our economic development partner, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, formed in the community.

Today, we are a highly desirable, diverse community with considerable expertise innovative potential. Broward County is also loaded with talent – talent that has shown the rest of the country that if you bring your business here, we can provide the skilled talent. We have also grown into a major player in international trade and entrepreneurship.

Broward County added 20,100 new private-sector jobs in the last year, the fourth-highest number of jobs among all Florida metro areas. In addition, Greater Fort Lauderdale's unemployment rate is the lowest it has been in a decade. AutoNation, Chiquita, Citrix, Emerson, JM Family Enterprises, Magic Leap, Microsoft and Ultimate Software are just some of the national and international companies that already call Broward County home.

Not to be overlooked, Greater Fort Lauderdale also features wonderful neighborhoods, state-of-the-art healthcare, a year-round subtropical climate, a myriad of activities and boundless cultural opportunities. Combined with our talent and innovation, these factors make Broward the best place to do business.

I hope that you enjoy your visit to Broward County and take advantage of all that our community has to offer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beau Van".