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SEDC Launches New Web Portal for Economic Development Professionals

For information, contact:

Gene A. Stinson, President
404-523-3030
gene@sedc.org

Atlanta, GA—The Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC) launched a new online educational tool for its members. Called **SEDC U**—a reference to “university”—the web site provides a direct link to articles selected for their educational content. The articles are chosen based on their relevance to the changing information needs of economic development professionals and their ability to expand readers’ knowledge and understanding of issues. The concept is to provide a continuing education portal that is easily accessible and that has real-world relevance for people in the industry.

“With the establishment of this portal, SEDC is providing another great benefit to its members,” said SEDC President Gene Stinson. “We are delivering access to information that can help our members do their jobs better each and every day.”

The result of a partnership between SEDC and *Site Selection* magazine, SEDC U will deliver the latest information on a wide range of topics affecting decision-makers in economic development. The focus is on what drives decisions around the location of facilities, be they

offices, industrial plants, hospitals, shopping centers or any other type of development that brings employment and economic development to a given locale.

“For people working in economic development on behalf of their municipality, region or state, the factors that organizations take into account when selecting sites are critical,” Stinson noted. “It’s hugely important that those trying to attract new businesses of any type and size understand what’s driving the decision-making of those businesses.”

SEDC will screen and choose articles from *Site Selection* that offer its members the most up-to-date information on almost every conceivable type of development or expansion. Current topics range from the effect of shale oil and gas production on inland transportation networks to the Veterans Affairs Administration’s \$11-billion construction program in locations across the country, to the many supply chain management factors that can affect a company’s location decisions.

The Southern Economic Development Council is organized for the purpose of advancing, through educational and professional efforts, the economic development of the following states -
- Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. SEDC U is an exclusive benefit to members of the association.

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