
NEWS

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AAED MEMBERS THINK THEIR ROLES WILL EXPAND DURING ECONOMIC RECOVERY

According to a recent survey conducted by the Arizona Association for Economic Development (AAED), nearly 80 percent of those surveyed think the role of economic developers will become more important during our country's economic recovery. Only 19 percent of the respondents believe it will stay the same and just one percent stated it will decrease.

Bruce Coomer, AAED's executive director, said his organization is focused on its role in the recovery.

"I absolutely agree that economic developers are a critical key to accelerate the economic recovery process," Coomer said. "The Arizona Association for Economic Development is working hard to provide timely and meaningful educational programs for our economic developer members."

The survey also indicated that a vast majority of those polled think economic stability is another 12-24 months away.

Forty-one percent of those surveyed said they thought the economy would stabilize by 2011, while 43 percent expect it to be 2012 before the economy stabilizes. Only 16 percent think it will happen during 2010.

Similarly, nearly 80 percent think the tightening of governmental budgets will have a significant impact on economic development efforts.

More than 100 AAED members responded to the survey, with nearly an equal split between economic development practitioners and providers.

AAED was originally founded in 1974 as the Arizona Association for Industrial Development (AAID). The organization, which was dedicated to expanding the industrial and economic base of Arizona, changed to its current name in 1991 to better reflect its broader mission.

The strategic vision of AAED is to be the leading advocate of responsible economic development for all of Arizona by leading the facilitation of public/private cooperation and fostering teamwork to address the growth and quality of life issues that face Arizona. For more information on AAED, visit www.aaed.com or call (602) 240-2233.

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