



**For Immediate Release.**

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## **AED's Annemarie Henton Honored with National 40 Under 40 Award in Economic Development**

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL – **Annemarie Ciepiela Henton, Vice President of Business Development & Marketing for Albuquerque Economic Development, Inc. (AED)**, has been selected in the economic development profession's nationwide 40 Under 40 Awards, the only award of its kind recognizing young talent in the economic development industry.

An independent, five-member selection committee chose the winners from a pool of more than 200 qualified candidates based on their exceptional accomplishments and contributions to the economic development industry. The awards program was managed by Development Counsellors International (DCI), a New York-based firm that specializes in economic development marketing, and Jorgenson Consulting, a leading national executive search firm serving organizations in economic and community development industries.

"Annemarie is a strategic, collaborative and highly effective team player, and she is a positive force for our organization and the advancement of its mission to build a stronger regional economy," said Gary Tonjes, president of AED. "Her creativity, energy and passion are among the additional strengths that make her such a wonderful ambassador for this community and state."

Henton directs the organization's marketing, communications and business development efforts, working as a member of AED's recruitment team to bring new employers to the Albuquerque metro area. She has been with AED since 2014.

"The 40 Under 40 Award is designed to identify the economic development profession's rising stars. These young economic development professionals represent the future of our industry," said Julie Curtin, president of DCI's economic development practice. "The selection committee had a challenge selecting only 40 winners, but we are delighted by the smarts, initiative and

game-changing mindset represented in these finalists. Economic development is in good hands with these young leaders,” Curtin added.

In addition to her role at AED, Henton serves on a number of local boards including the New Mexico Technology Council, Lovelace Women’s Hospital Governing Board, Junior Achievement, the New Mexico Public Relations Society of America and more. She also speaks nationally on the topic of emotional intelligence in the multigenerational workplace.

“The achievements of these talented and committed professionals show that economic development has an awesome future,” said Todd Jorgenson, managing director and principal of Jorgenson Consulting, Inc. “Partnering with DCI this year to recognize these passionate young men and women has been an honor.”

“The awardees this year embodied passion for the profession and a commitment to excellence, innovation and place-making,” said Chris Camacho, president and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council and 40 Under 40 selection committee member. “The field of economic development is evolving and we’re seeing many people rise up to assure this profession is evolving and we’re seeing many people rise up to assure this profession is on the edge and inclusive. Congrats to the new class of 40 Under 40.

DCI and Jorgenson officially announced the winners last night at an awards reception during the International Economic Development Council Leadership Summit in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and will feature profiles of each on the awards website. For more information on the 40 Under 40 winners, visit [www.econdev40under40.com](http://www.econdev40under40.com).

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#### About AED

AED is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to recruit business and industry, help local companies grow and generate quality job opportunities throughout the Albuquerque metro area. AED provides confidential assistance to businesses considering the area for expansion and new investment. Since its creation in 1960, AED has recruited nearly 240 companies and more than 35,000 jobs to the Albuquerque metro area. AED also provides retention and expansion assistance to existing industry.

#### About DCI

Considered the leader in marketing places, Development Counsellors International (DCI) specialized in economic development and tourism marketing. The agency has worked for more than 500 cities, regions, states and countries since it was established in New York City in 1960.

#### About Jorgenson Consulting

Jorgenson Consulting has worked diligently over the past 25 years to establish itself as a premier national executive search firm. With a focus on the fields of nonprofit, economic and community development, they partner with clients to help them identify and secure the highest caliber of executive talent.