

**Allegany County Government
News Release
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Economic Development Director Earns National Designation

Certified Economic Developer (CEcD)

Matthew W. Diaz, Director of the Allegany County Department of Economic Development, has earned the designation of Certified Economic Developer (CEcD). This is a national recognition that denotes a mastery of principal skills in economic development, professional attainment, and a commitment to personal and professional growth. Diaz passed the CEcD exam, which was administered by the International Economic Development Council (www.iedconline.org), the premier organization for the economic development profession, on May 30 – 31 in Raleigh, North Carolina. He has joined the elite group of 1,200 CEcDs in the United States.

The CEcD designation recognizes qualified and dedicated practitioners in the economic development field and sets the standard of excellence within the profession. Diaz passed a rigorous comprehensive two-day examination, which tested his knowledge, proficiency and judgment in the key areas of economic development, including business retention and expansion, marketing, finance, workforce development, community development, real estate, strategic planning, and management.

Mr. Diaz has led Allegany County's Economic Development since 2006. Diaz, a Cumberland native, earned a Bachelor of Science in Geography and Urban Planning, 1990, and a Master of Business Administration, 1996, from Frostburg State University. He worked in Allegany County's Planning Department from 1990 to 2000. For the next several years, Diaz was employed by Frostburg State University in the Facilities Department. In 2003 Diaz rejoined Allegany County as Capital Projects Director and served in this capacity until his appointment as Director of Economic Development.

The Department of Economic Development works to retain existing businesses as well as attract new private and public sector entities. For additional information about opportunities in Allegany County, contact the Allegany County Department of Economic Development, info@alleganyworks.org, 701 Kelly Road, Cumberland, MD 21502-2803, 301-777-5967, 800-555-4080, www.alleganyworks.org.