



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Baltutis to Attend 2016 Mayors Conference on Entrepreneurship

BURLINGTON, NC— Mayor Baltutis will join mayors from around the nation at the fourth annual [Mayors Conference on Entrepreneurship](#), Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 2016, in St. Petersburg, Florida. At the event, themed “Diversifying Entrepreneurial Opportunity,” mayors and entrepreneurship experts will explore how cities can make entrepreneurial opportunities available to all.

Convened by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, a private, nonpartisan foundation that aims to foster economic independence by advancing educational achievement and entrepreneurial success, the conference is held in partnership with St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman. Maria Contreras-Sweet, administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, will be a keynote speaker.

The conference will explore how cities can build diverse, inclusive entrepreneurial communities that foster equitable economic growth. This year’s event will address:

- How cities can engage potential entrepreneurs – especially women and minorities, who often face the greatest barriers
- How to connect entrepreneurs of all types and backgrounds
- Support strategies for diverse businesses, from startups to Main Street small businesses, to high-growth firms
- Policies that foster entrepreneurship and create economic opportunity
- Creative and innovative solutions to other long-standing city issues

"Throughout Burlington's history we have relied on the ingenuity of local entrepreneurs. Some of our largest industries got their start as small businesses in our community. Our future depends on supporting future generations of entrepreneurs and small business owners," said Mayor Baltutis. "This year's conference topic is particularly relevant as Burlington continues to lead the way nationally as a Maker City promoting inclusive access to the tools, skills, and technologies that today's entrepreneurs need."

“Entrepreneurship is one of the best avenues to economic independence and self-sufficiency,” said Jason Wiens, policy director at the Kauffman Foundation. “Mayoral leadership is critical to

creating vibrant communities in which all people can pursue their entrepreneurial ambitions. The Mayors Conference gives mayors access to strategies that are working in their peers' cities and allows them to hear from experts about policies that break down barriers and encourage connectivity.”

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Our Mission:

“The City of Burlington is dedicated to providing high quality municipal services within our diverse community in a friendly, professional and efficient manner in order to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees.”

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