



Schedule at a Glance
20th Annual Tennessee Basic Economic Development Course
May 4 – May 7, 2026 (Nashville)

Monday, May 4 (CT)

Drury Plaza Nashville Downtown

Moderator

Jill Osborne, TCEcD, TNECD

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|---------------|---|--|
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Registration & Check-In | Belle Meade Meeting Room Lower Level “LL” |
| 10:00 – 10:25 | Welcome & Introductions/TBEDC Orientation | Paul Jennings, PhD UT CIS Tintin Czach, TCEcD UT CIS |
| 10:25 – 11:45 | Trends in Economic Development | Laith Wardi, CEcD Gem City Growth Strategies |
| 11:45 – 12:45 | Lunch & Networking | |
| 12:45 – 2:45 | Business Retention & Expansion | Laith Wardi, CEcD Gem City Growth Strategies |
| 2:45 – 3:00 | Team Challenge – Introduction/Explanation | Tintin Czach, TCEcD |
| 3:00 – 3:15 | Break | |
| 3:15 – 5:15 | Real Estate Development & Reuse | Elliott Cook Retail Strategies Matt Largen Williamson Chamber |
| 5:15 | Wrap Up & Adjourn | |
| 5:30 – 7:30 | Opening Reception Sponsored by Middle TN Industrial Development Association (MTIDA) | The Kitchen + Bar 8 th Floor (Drury Hotel) |

Schedule at a Glance
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Tuesday, May 5 (CT)

Drury Plaza Nashville Downtown

Moderator

Jeff Taylor, TCEcD, Greene County Partnership

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|---------------|---|--|
| 6:00 – 8:00 | Full Breakfast | 8th Floor Guest Dining Area |
| 8:00 – 10:00 | Small Business & Entrepreneurship | Maureen (Mo) Collins Entrepreneurial Communities |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Break | |
| 10:15 – 12:15 | Economic Development Finance | Betsy Knotts Bass, Berry & Sims David Bradshaw Pinnacle Financial Partners |
| 12:15 – 1:15 | Lunch & Networking | |
| 1:15 – 3:15 | Education & Workforce Development | Maureen (Mo) Collins Entrepreneurial Communities |
| 3:15 – 3:30 | Break | |
| 3:30 – 4:00 | Team Challenge – Breakout & Discussion | Course Participants |
| 4:00 – 5:15 | Mayors’ Panel | Joe Brooks, TCEcD Mayor, Claiborne County Julian McTizic, TCEcD Mayor, City of Bolivar Bob Rial, TCEcD Mayor, Dickson County |
| 5:15 | Wrap Up & Adjourn | |
| 6:00 | Optional Dinner Gathering | |



Schedule at a Glance
20th Annual Tennessee Basic Economic Development Course
May 4 – May 7, 2026 (Nashville)

Wednesday, May 6 (CT)

Drury Plaza/501 Commerce/Ryman

Moderator

Kirby Lewis-Gill, TNECD

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|---------------|--|---|
| 6:00 – 8:00 | Full Breakfast | 8th Floor Guest Dining Area |
| 8:00 – 10:00 | Managing Economic Development Organizations | Kendrick Curtis, PhD MTIDA |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Break | |
| 10:15 – 12:15 | Community Development & Market Research Analysis | Greg Word VisionFirst Advisors |
| 12:15 – 12:45 | Walk (4 blocks) to 501 Commerce Building <i>Pick up box lunches upon arrival</i> | 501 Commerce |
| 12:45 – 2:45 | Marketing & Attraction | Greg Word VisionFirst Advisors Ryan Egly, TCEcD Lawrenceburg Chamber |
| 2:45 – 3:15 | Break/Walk (2 blocks) to Ryman Auditorium | |
| 3:15 – 4:45 | Ryman Auditorium Briefing/Self-Guided Tour | |
| 5:00 | Return to Drury Plaza Nashville Downtown (Optional) | |

Thursday, May 7 (CT)

Drury Plaza Nashville Downtown

Moderator

Rena Purdy, TCEcD, Wayne County

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|---------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 6:00 – 8:00 | Full Breakfast | 8th Floor Guest Dining Area |
| 8:00 – 10:00 | Economic Development Ethics | Greg Lowe, TCEcD TNECD |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Break | |



Center for Industrial Services
INSTITUTE for PUBLIC SERVICE

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|---------------|---|--|
| 10:15 – 12:15 | Strategic Planning | Joe Barker SW TN Development District |
| 12:15 – 1:00 | Lunch & Networking | |
| 1:00 – 1:30 | TBEDC Team Challenge – Breakout & Discussion | Course Participants |
| 1:30 – 1:45 | Continuing Your Professional Development | |
| | TCED Program | Tintin Czach, TCEcD UT CIS |
| | IEDC CEcD Process | Walt Wood, CEcD TEDC |
| | TEDC Membership | Greg Lowe, TCEcD TNECD |
| 1:45 – 2:15 | Servant Leadership | Herb Byrd III, PhD UT Institute for Public Service |
| 2:15 – 2:30 | Break | |
| 2:30 – 3:45 | Team Challenge – Project Presentation | Course Participants |
| 3:45 – 4:00 | TBEDC Graduates Group Photo | |

Please remember to complete your daily and overall evaluation forms!