



Office of the Mayor

James J. Schmitt
Mayor

PRESS RELEASE

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Mayor Schmitt Will Attend 2016 Mayors Conference on Entrepreneurship

(Green Bay, WI)– Mayor James Schmitt 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

“As a former entrepreneur, I know what it takes to launch a successful business. I look forward to learning more techniques to improve outreach and vital statistics which can encourage minorities and women to consider entrepreneurship” said Mayor Schmitt.

“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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