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Morfessis gets lifetime achievement award from global council

BY MIKE SUNNUCKS

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Phoenix economic development consultant Ioanna Morfessis has received a lifetime achievement and excellence award from the International Economic Development Council.

The former CEO of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council now is head of IO.Inc., a Phoenix consulting firm that helps clients with site selection, economic development studies and decision-making.

Morfessis was the first president and CEO of GPEC and of the Greater Baltimore Alliance economic group. She also is a former director of the Montgomery County (Md.) Department of Economic Development and the Phoenix Economic Growth Corp.

She received the IEDC lifetime achievement award earlier this month at the group's annual conference in Charlotte, N.C.

"This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated consistent, exemplary performance in the economic development profession, leading the execution

of projects that have a significant impact on revitalizing communities, and playing a major role in shaping and improving the practice of economic development," said IEDC President and CEO Jeff Finkle.

"Ioanna's professional career and personal passion for improving communities so all citizens can benefit from more jobs, increased opportunities for small business and enhanced civic pride is an inspiration for all of us in this field," he said.

Morfessis is a former chairwoman and a lifetime member of the international economic group.



Morfessis

"Many of us in economic development have benefited from Ioanna's contributions and innovations to our profession," said Barry Broome, GPEC's current president and CEO. "The impact of her work goes well beyond the markets she's served. She created programs and tools adopted by communities in the U.S. as models for contemporary urban economic development."

A Phoenix resident, Morfessis received her bachelor's degree from the American University, her master's degree from George Washington University and her doctorate from Arizona State University. She was elected to the ASU College of Public Programs' Hall of Fame in 1996. She is a

founding director and serves on the board of the Helios Education Foundation, and serves on the boards of the ASU College of Public Programs and the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation, as well as the Maricopa 21st Century Steering Committee.

"It is a great honor to be recognized by my peers for my work in economic development," Morfessis said. "I am very fortunate to have been able to work with scores of leaders to improve the lives and livelihoods of the people and business who reside in the communities that I served."

Connect with **Mike Sunnucks** at msunnucks@bizjournals.com or on Twitter at [@mikesunx](https://twitter.com/mikesunx).