



**Irene Spanos**  
**Director, Economic Development & Community Affairs**  
**Oakland County**

Irene Spanos was appointed director of the Department of Economic Development & Community Affairs by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson in 2011. As director, she oversees the operation of the department and its six divisions: Business Development (attraction/retention), Planning, Finance, Workforce Development, Marketing & Communication, One-Stop-Shop Small Business Center and Community & Home Improvement. Before her appointment, she spent seven years with the county as a senior business development representative, specializing in the bio-technology and medical devices sectors and was involved in the launch of Medical Main Street, the county's initiative to grow the life sciences and health care industries in Southeast Michigan. She also worked with companies headquartered in Europe and growing their presence in Oakland County.

She is a member of the Swedish, German & French American Chamber of Commerce, and Southfield's Healthcare Corridor board. Spanos sits on the Mechatronics Certificate advisory board for Oakland Community College, on the advisory board of Oakland University's Incubator: OU INC and is a member of the Michigan Economic Developers Association and the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Research Group. She recently was asked to sit on a National Economic Development board focused on Foreign Direct Investment and the International Visitors Council in Detroit.