i-GATE NEST Board of Directors





Karen Engel, PhD
Executive Director, East Bay Economic Development Alliance

Karen Engel has been named the Executive Director of the East Bay Economic Development Alliance ("East Bay EDA"). Dr. Engel was awarded her Ph.D. in economics from Tufts University and has 20 years of experience with regional economic development. Dr. Engel will lead the regional public/private member organization, advancing its mission of job creation and economic development and working on behalf of the member counties, cities, leading businesses, labor and community groups.

Dr. Engel has led or participated in economic development initiatives in more than a dozen U.S. regions and 11 foreign countries. Her international experience includes work for foreign governments, private firms, the World Bank and the U.S. Agency for International Development on issues ranging from international trade to micro-enterprise development. As a Fulbright Scholar in Madagascar, Dr. Engel served as an economic advisor on small business to the Minister of Economy and Planning. She has served as a Principal with the Economic Competitiveness Group, a Bay Area economic consulting firm and as the Business Development Manager for the City of Oakland.

Most recently, Dr. Engel served as the Economic Development Director for the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Over the last four years at the Chamber, Dr. Engel helped spearhead the Oakland Partnership, a public-private partnership focused on economic development in the City of Oakland. In addition, she worked with McKinsey & Company for its assessment of the East Bay region's industry cluster groups including Bio Tech and Green businesses. Dr. Engel will continue the East Bay EDA's work in support of the East Bay Green Corridor.