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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PEDA Announces Economic Development Awards

(November 5, 2020) – During its 2020 Virtual Conference Series, held via Zoom, the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association (PEDA) honored a number of individuals and organizations for their demonstration of outstanding accomplishments in economic development. Board President Michael Grigalonis and Awards Committee Chair James Becker were pleased to congratulate award recipients, whose recognition shines a bright light on the meaningful work being done across Pennsylvania by economic development professionals.

A summary of awards presented is as follows:

2020 President's Award:

Kevin O'Donnell, President and CEO of CAN DO, Inc., was recognized for his commitment, leadership and dedication to economic development in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania over a nearly fifty year career. Having become very well known in economic development circles across Pennsylvania, during the course of his career, it has been through his leadership role at CAN DO, Inc. that he has helped bring regional, national and global companies to Greater Hazleton – resulting in thousands of family sustaining jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars annually for the local economy. In addition to being named PEDA's first-ever "Developer of the Year" in 1994, just a few of CAN DO's accomplishments under Mr. O'Donnell's leadership include recognition as a Top 10 Development Organization by Site Selection Magazine in 1989, as PEDA's "Large Agency of the Year" in 2007 and as the Arthur D. Little Environmental Excellence in Economic Development Award recipient in 1993. He has been a true champion of economic development.

2020 Economic Development Project of the Year Award:

Regional Industrial Development Corporation of Southwestern PA was recognized as the recipient of this award for its development of the RIDC Mill 19 Project. Mill 19, a former steel mill located on the 178-acre Hazelwood Green site, represents the last large riverfront brownfield within Pittsburgh's city limits. As robotics and advanced manufacturing are rapidly becoming the new economic pillars of the Pittsburgh region, bringing with them an influx of jobs and people, RIDC's role has proven critical in supporting the growth of many businesses at the core of the community's evolving manufacturing industry.

2020 Economic Development Marketing Innovation Award:

Montgomery County Commerce Department was recognized as the recipient of this award for MontcoForward, an economic development initiative carried out in partnership with the Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board. The focus of the campaign – which includes a website and marketing video – is to promote the county, nationally, to investors and entrepreneurs considering launching, locating or growing their businesses in the county based upon the strength of its economy, its quality of life and the established partnerships it enjoys between business, government and tourism.

About Pennsylvania Economic Development Association

PEDA's mission is to promote sound economic development policies, provide leading-edge economic development education and nurture an effective statewide economic development network to foster the economic growth of the Commonwealth.

PEDA's membership is comprised of county and regional economic developers, state government economic development employees, workforce development professionals, utility and transportation executives, industrial development authority directors, operators of industrial and technology incubators, chamber of commerce executives, municipal directors of community and economic development, engineering and construction executives, economic development finance professionals, commercial and industrial developers, and local, county and state elected officials. For further information, visit www.peda.org.

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