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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PEDA Announces 2016 Economic Development Awards

Pocono Manor, PA (November 1, 2016) – During its annual fall conference, held this year at the *Kalahari Resort & Convention Center*, the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association (PEDA) honored a number of organizations and individuals for their demonstration of outstanding accomplishments in economic development.

On behalf of the PEDA Awards Committee, Chair David Black, President and CEO of the Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC, congratulated award recipients, thanking them for “their efforts in the Pennsylvania communities they serve. Economic developers are special people with special skill sets and a passion to make the regions they serve better places through investment, job retention and job creation. These awards, conferred by their peers from across the Commonwealth, are an acknowledgment of their special efforts.”

A summary of awards presented is as follows:

- **Large Agency of the Year:** The Scranton Lackawanna Industrial Building Company (SLIBCO) implemented a work plan of business attraction, sustainment and growth related to the completion of 22 projects within Lackawanna County. The result was the creation and/or retention of 2,140 jobs, 1,100 construction jobs and a total community investment of over \$1.25B. From the development of the Scranton Enterprise Center and TekRidge Center – focused on business incubation – to the launch of Powered By LACKAWANNA (an online one-stop-shop for entrepreneurs), SLIBCO is being recognized for its positive economic impact on its community and its commitment to innovation.
- **Developer of the Year:** Supporters say one would be hard pressed to name someone who has had more of an impact on economic development projects in his community in recent years than J. Patrick Killian. From the revitalization of the Delaware River waterfront to the development of a new energy industry in Delaware County, which Sunoco and ConocoPhillips oil and gas refineries now call home, Killian is being recognized for the significant role he plays in economic development across all sectors in southeastern Pennsylvania.

- **Partner of the Year:** Through the work of its economic development team, FirstEnergy Corporation has been an active and innovative supporter of local, regional, and state economic development initiatives. It is being recognized for its commitment to helping partner organizations promote new corporate investment, for assisting communities with business recruitment efforts and for providing funding that has allowed companies to research and develop new processes and products.
- **Project of the Year:** Strawberry Square, a mixed use complex created in 1979 through a unique partnership between Harristown Development Corporation and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is comprised of over 1.1M square feet of commercial and office space, retail storefronts, and a central atrium. Between March of 2015 and May of 2016, Harristown invested \$16.3M to undertake a multitude of redevelopment projects to revitalize the building and create a true mixed-use environment. The project is being recognized for several reasons including its efforts to promote, provide and increase social, cultural and economic activity, to link the downtown to the regional community and to enhance downtown's quality and character of life for all residents, businesses, employees, customers and visitors.
- **Program of the Year:** Allegheny Conference's Strengthening Communities Partnership seeks to engage the Pittsburgh region's business community to help build capacity and drive revitalization in struggling communities throughout the region. The program is being recognized for its successful pooling of private sector resources to leverage nearly \$10M focused on accomplishing these objectives in seven communities, where projects are being led by partnering neighborhood organizations including business district revitalization, land use and transportation strategies, blight remediation and housing and commercial development.

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, 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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