CONTACT:
PEDA
Email: info@peda.org
Phone: 717.441.6047
Fax: 717.236.2046

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PEDA Announces 2022 Economic Development Awards

Stage College, PA (October 25, 2022) – During its annual fall conference, held this year at the *Hyatt Place State College*, the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association (PEDA) honored a number of recipients for their demonstration of outstanding accomplishments in economic development.

On behalf of the PEDA Awards Committee, Executive Director Joshua Skopp congratulated recipients of 2022 PEDA Membership Awards, thanking them for shining a bright light on the meaningful work being done by economic development professionals across the Commonwealth.

A summary of awards presented is as follows:

- **Project of the Year Award –** *Sunbury Textile Mills Project*

  In June 2020, as a direct response to the statewide COVID-19 shutdown, a custom textile facility in Sunbury, PA, announced its intent to close, which would result in approximately 125 workers losing their jobs. Following the company's subsequent decision to donate the building to DRIVE for redevelopment, the latter and its partners – in less than a year – brought in two new companies and turned a plant closure into an economic development success story. Nearly 200 jobs will be created, by 2024 (a net positive of, approximately, 75 total jobs), and a total of $4.172 million in public funding is being leveraged to attract $9.69 million in private investment. DRIVE's collaboration with private industry – as well as state and local leaders and economic development partners – has set a new standard for redeveloping industrial sites in Pennsylvania's rural communities. Learn more at www.driveindustry.com.

- **Program of the Year Award –** *Western Central PA Electricians' Joint Apprenticeship & Training Center*

  In 2019, in order to meet the overwhelming demand for qualified electricians in the region, the Western Central PA Electricians' Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee proposed the construction of a 23,000 sf state-of-the-art electrical apprenticeship, electrical training and welding center which, ultimately, was completed in 2021. The total construction cost was nearly $6.5M which was offset, partially, by the award of a $1M RACP grant. As a direct result of this project, which will prepare individuals to join an occupation projected to experience an above-average growth rate, over 20 people are employed at the training center in the positions of teaching, administration and maintenance. Learn more at www.lawrencecounty.com.

- **Developer of the Year Award**

  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 Robert Cormack. With projects his organization (Bucks County Economic Development Corporation) has directly touched having resulted in the retention and creation of thousands of jobs through the execution of countless projects, over the years, Cormack's impact is unquestioned. Cormack is being recognized for the significant role he plays in economic development across all sectors throughout Bucks County. Learn more at www.bcedc.com.

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, industrial and technology incubator operators, 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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