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Wayne County EDGE wins excellence award for Aerotropolis

(COLUMBUS, OH) – Wayne County’s Economic Development Growth Engine (EDGE) received an Excellence in Economic Development Award for its *Detroit Region Aerotropolis* in the category of Regionalism and Cross-Border Promotion for communities with a population greater than 500,000. It also received an Honorable Mention in the category Multi-Year Economic Development.

The awards were presented by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Tuesday, Sept. 28 during the IEDC’s Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

“It is with great satisfaction that we accept this award,” said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano. “The staff in EDGE has been working with steady determination on the Aerotropolis project and this award recognizes their efforts.”

Since 2007, almost 6,000 jobs and \$1 billion in capital investment have been created by projects seeking the advantages of being in the Aerotropolis. Most recently, General Electric located its new \$175-million Advanced Manufacturing Technology and Software Center in the heart of the Aerotropolis.

The Detroit Region Aerotropolis Initiative includes four cities, three townships, two counties, Wayne County’s Airport Authority and private partners. From its inception, these groups quickly came together to work as a unified regional alliance and act in a collaborative and expeditious manner for purposes of promoting the Aerotropolis region.



“We recognize Wayne County EDGE for providing successful strategies to promote new paradigms in economic development in this period of global recovery,” said William Best, IEDC chair. “Our awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in communities. Wayne County EDGE is showing that they are at the forefront of the economic development profession and are using innovative and effective practices that can be replicated in other communities.”

The Excellence in Economic Awards program annually recognizes the world’s best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year’s most influential leaders. The program honors organizations and individuals in 28 categories for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban and rural communities.

The IEDC is a membership organization dedicated to helping economic development professionals create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities and improve the quality of life in their regions.

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