

Allegheny Conference Leader Dennis Yablonsky to Depart at Year End 2017

(PITTSBURGH – April 10, 2017) – Dennis Yablonsky, chief executive officer of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and its affiliates, has announced his decision to step down after nine years as the leader of one of the nation’s premier economic and community development organizations. During his tenure, the Conference played a leading role in welcoming the world to Pittsburgh for the G-20 Summit, securing sufficient and sustainable state investment in transportation infrastructure and public transit, and producing the transformational *Inflection Point* report on the future of work in the 10-county region.

Allegheny Conference Chair Richard Harshman, Chairman, President and CEO of ATI, said, “The Conference and our entire region have benefited from Dennis’s leadership. He played an important role in securing more than 300 business investment wins through the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance. These wins culminated with Shell Pennsylvania Chemicals’ decision to move forward with a multi-billion dollar petrochemical facility in Beaver County, the largest from-the-ground-up industrial investment in our region in a generation and the first major U.S. project of its type in 20 years to be built outside the Gulf Coast.

“While we are saddened by his decision to step down, we are confident he will continue to be involved in creating opportunity in our region for many years to come.”

Mr. Yablonsky came to the Conference after six years as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development during the Rendell Administration. Earlier in his career he led both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, including 12 years as CEO of The Carnegie Group, a pioneering provider of artificial intelligence solutions, and as founder of the Pittsburgh Digital Greenhouse and the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse, which seeded investment in the region’s burgeoning tech economy. A native of McKeesport, Mr. Yablonsky lives in Pittsburgh’s South Hills.

His varied accomplishments at the Conference included the creation of the Power of 32 Site Development Fund, for which he spearheaded efforts to raise almost \$49 million to invest in infrastructure on business sites throughout a four-state region. He was the creator of the Strengthening Communities Partnership which targets business investment in seven southwestern Pennsylvania communities (Connellsville, Homewood, McKees Rocks, Mt. Oliver/Knoxville, Sharpsburg, Washington and Wilksburg). During his tenure the Conference led statewide efforts to improve the economic climate, including the elimination of the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax, saving Pennsylvania employers more than \$1 billion a year.

Regarding his future plans, Mr. Yablonsky said, “I am not planning to retire, I’m just retiring from full-time work. I’m proud of everything we’ve achieved at the Conference and even prouder of the team of dedicated professionals on the Conference staff who make it happen. I’m also grateful for the trust the leadership of the Conference and our Regional Investors have placed in me. The Pittsburgh region is truly blessed to have so many private sector leaders who devote their time, talent and resources to creating opportunity here. I’m confident the good work will continue, and I plan to be a part of it as time goes by.”

The Allegheny Conference has appointed a committee which has begun a search to identify candidates for the position.

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MEDIA CONTACT: Philip Cynar, Allegheny Conference, 412-281-1890, ext. 4573
pcynar@alleghenyconference.org