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Allegheny Conference receives national award for sustained regional stewardship

Award recognizes organization's unique and lasting contributions to the principles and practice of sustainable regional development

(PITTSBURGH – August 6, 2012) - The Allegheny Conference on Community Development was recognized last Thursday night by the national Alliance for Regional Stewardship (ARS) with the “Ten Award” for Distinguished Achievement in Sustained Stewardship at the annual convention of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) in Louisville, Ky.

The “Ten Award” for Distinguished Achievement in Sustained Stewardship was established by ARS early in 2010. It was launched to recognize an organization that demonstrates ambitious and steadfast advancement of regional stewardship over a period of at least 10 years. The *Ten Award* recognizes the exceptional accomplishments embodied in maintaining successful public-private, cross-jurisdictional, development over time.

In announcing the award, the Alliance stated,

“As one of the early adopters and bold risk takers in the regionalism movement, there is no more worthy recipient of this award than the founders and ongoing drivers of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.”

“The team at the Allegheny Conference – from earliest inception until today – has worked tirelessly to find the resources and willpower to develop and maintain regional strategies to address regional issues. Further, both leaders and professional staff have provided mentors and models to scores of other regions that aspire to similar success. Few regions of the country have done so much for so long for so many.”

The Allegheny Conference, organized in 1944, is one of the earliest civic leadership organizations established in the United States. The Conference pioneered public-private partnerships in the 1950's creating the foundation for Pittsburgh's First Renaissance.

In the 1990's the Conference developed a new, integrated model for regional stewardship that emphasizes marketing, advocacy and public policy improvements. In doing so, it affiliated with the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance and the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh. The Conference routinely hosts regional, national and international visitors interested in the economic, environmental and quality of life transformation of the Pittsburgh region and in the civic leadership that made this transformation a reality.

“We greatly appreciate this recognition from our peer organizations at the Alliance for Regional Stewardship. The Conference today draws its strength from a legacy of committed civic leadership that believes in the enduring power of public-private partnerships to shape the future of our region. Our thanks go to our leadership on our boards and our Regional Investors Council who bring vision and focus to our efforts to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life for everyone throughout the Pittsburgh region,” said Dennis Yablonsky, CEO of the Allegheny Conference.

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The **Allegheny Conference on Community Development and Affiliates** – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance – work in collaboration with public and private sector partners to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. For more information, visit www.alleghenyconference.org.

The **Alliance for Regional Stewardship (ARS)** is a national, peer-to-peer network of regional leaders working across boundaries to solve tough community problems. Supported by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, ARS members come from business, government, education, and civic sectors and share a commitment to collaborative action and achieving results. ARS is committed to the idea that strong and vibrant regional communities are built on four principles of regional stewardship: an innovative economy, livable communities, social inclusion, and a collaborative style of governance.