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**Allegheny Conference and Affiliates Announce New
Private Sector Leadership for 2009-2011**

(PITTSBURGH – March 18, 2009) The Allegheny Conference on Community Development and its affiliate organizations – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, Pennsylvania Economy League of Southwestern Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA) – today announced new private sector leadership to helm the boards of the four organizations and five committees focused on strategic regional transformation. The appointments, which represent the increasingly regional membership of the Conference, were effective January 1, 2009.

John P. Surma, chairman and chief executive officer of United States Steel Corporation, has been named chairman of the Allegheny Conference. Mr. Surma, a Pittsburgh native, returned to the region in 2002 after serving in leadership roles with Price Waterhouse LLP and Marathon Oil Company. From 2006-2008, he served as vice chairman of the Allegheny Conference and as co-chair of the Pittsburgh 250 initiative to close the gap in the Great Allegheny Passage, along with Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato.

“It’s a tremendous honor to serve as chairman of the Allegheny Conference, an organization that has been leading efforts to make the Pittsburgh region a better place to live, work, run a business and raise a family since 1944,” said Mr. Surma. “Early in this decade the Conference Board made a commitment to broaden its membership and its leadership to better reflect the diversity of the major private sector employers that drive the economy of our ten county region. I’m proud to be serving alongside an extremely talented group of private sector leaders and the dedicated team of professionals at the Allegheny Conference to ensure we not only hold the ground we’ve gained in recent years but to capitalize on the opportunities we have to create a more prosperous Pittsburgh region.”

Among those appointed to key leadership roles are two executives from companies based in Washington County and one from Westmoreland County. Terence J. Murphy, president of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, will serve as chair of the Chamber. Laura E. Ellsworth, partner-in-charge of the Pittsburgh office of Jones Day, will serve as chair of the Economy League. And J. Brett Harvey, president and CEO of CONSOL Energy, will chair both the PRA and the Conference Business Investment Committee.

Other committee leadership appointments included Carlos M. Cardoso, president and CEO of Kennametal Inc., who will chair the Conference Business Climate Committee; Morgan K. O’Brien, president and CEO of Duquesne Light Company, chairing the Civic

Policy Committee; Peter J. Kalis, chair of the Management Committee at K&L Gates, chairing the Transportation & Infrastructure committee; and Randall Dearth, president and CEO of LANXESS, chairing the Workplace committee.

In addition, Charles Bunch, CEO and chairman of PPG Industries, has been appointed Vice Chair; Kimberly Tillotson Fleming, president of Hefren-Tillotson, has been appointed Treasurer of the Allegheny Conference; and Michele Fabrizi, president and CEO of Marc USA, has been appointed to a second term as Secretary.

Between 2009 and 2011, the Conference is focused on five goals that trigger regional transformation: simpler, more cost-effective governance; an improved business climate; targeted transportation and infrastructure investments; positioning the region as an attractive workplace for a diverse workforce; and stimulating business investments.

The Allegheny Conference is uniquely dedicated to the long-term and short-term improvements of our region's business climate and quality of life, with a 65-year record of bringing together public and private stakeholders from around the region and across the Commonwealth to tackle the tough issues and effect change. The Conference affiliates work together in a continuous improvement model based on finding out from stakeholders about the issues that affect their business decisions, crafting solutions, and advocating for legislation and public policy reform. In addition to the members of its boards, the Conference engages a Regional Investors Council made up of about 300 private sector leaders from across the 10-county region who provide time, talent and resources to execute on the organization's agenda.

The Allegheny Conference on Community Development and Affiliates – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Southwestern Pennsylvania 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.

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