**David Ruppersberger, President of the Allegheny Conference’s Economic Development Affiliate, the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, to Depart**

**(PITTSBURGH – February 15, 2019)** – David Ruppersberger, President of the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA), has announced his decision to step down after four years as the leader of the 10-county region’s economic development marketing organization, effective March 15, 2019. The Pittsburgh Regional Alliance is an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

Under Ruppersberger’s leadership, the PRA team played an important role in securing more than 140 business investment wins, representing nearly 10,000 jobs and more than $7 billion dollars in capital investment throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. Perhaps most notable among these projects was the 2016 decision by Shell Pennsylvania Chemicals to build a multi-billion dollar 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 of the Gulf Coast.

During his stewardship, Ruppersberger was instrumental in developing economic development strategies to pursue high-potential business investment and job creation opportunities for the region. Chief among these was a plan to leverage abundant natural gas resources – and the Shell anchor investment – to attract downstream manufacturing. More recently, in collaboration with the local tech and economic development communities, he worked to develop an innovation economy strategy designed to translate the enormous capacity for innovation at our region’s colleges, universities and R&D centers into broad-based economic growth.

Allegheny Conference CEO Stefani Pashman said, “While I am saddened by David’s decision to step down, I am grateful to have had the chance to work alongside him in efforts to market the region, particularly on the region’s Amazon HQ2 bid, which placed us among the top 20 metros vying for this signature tech investment. He’s a true professional and has been an asset to the Conference’s senior management team and the region’s economic development community.”

Regarding his future plans, Ruppersberger said, “I’m thankful for the opportunity I’ve had to work with such a talented team – one that’s truly dedicated to the region’s success. I look forward to continuing to be involved in efforts to improve our economic vitality as I move on to the next chapter of my career.”

The Allegheny Conference has engaged a search firm to identify candidates for this position.

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