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STATEWIDE CONFERENCE  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

October 2, 2014

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Lt. Governor Ellspermann Recognizes Excellence in Community Economic Development and Affordable Housing**

INDIANAPOLIS- Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann recognized excellence in community economic development Wednesday at the Annual Statewide Conference on Housing and Community Economic Development awards ceremony. The conference is organized by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) and the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development (IACED).

“It is my honor to congratulate the 2014 award winners and thank them for their work toward strengthening Indiana’s communities,” said Lt. Governor Ellspermann, who chairs the IHCDA Board. “With such impressive programs and with so many dedicated groups coming together to share, plan and collaborate, Indiana can continue on the path to a sustainable quality of life for all Hoosiers.”

The 2014 conference theme of “Empower!” spoke to the work of both formal and informal community leaders, whose work has resulted in tangible community benefits across Indiana. At the annual statewide conference, IHCDA and IACED, along with award sponsors and colleagues, recognized organizations and individuals for their outstanding projects and services.

“Community economic development is executed and supported by nonprofit, private and public organizations,” said Andy Fraizer, IACED Executive Director. “Impactful work is only possible because of the energy, passion and leadership of practitioners and local neighbors. It is their civic service that makes Indiana prosper. Today we recognized and rewarded their excellence.”

This year’s award winners are:

**Lt. Governor’s Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing and Community Development- Rural**

*Recognizing a rural affordable housing project that creatively and cooperatively improves the lives of their residents and the community.*

Recipient: RomWeber Flats, Batesville, IN

Situated in a once-vacant plant that was the former home to the 140-year-old Romweber Furniture Company, RomWeber Flats provides 84 apartments for seniors in the Batesville community. With a recent expansion, RomWeber Flats is utilizing Medicaid vouchers to assist residents with living expenses, allowing them to continue their independent lives.

**Lt. Governor's Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing and Community Development- Urban**

*Recognizing an urban affordable housing project that creatively and cooperatively improves the lives of their residents and the community.*

Recipient: Crawford Apartments, Bloomington, IN

Named for Franklin "Road Dog" Crawford, a well-known member of the Bloomington-area homeless community, Crawford Apartments offers 25 units of supportive housing in a Platinum LEED certified building. Providing access to services and resources, residents are able to receive assistance with health, substance abuse and mental issues, helping residents lead more stable, productive lives.

**The John Niederman Rural Development Leadership Award**

*Created this year by the IACED Board of Directors and awarded for the first time, the award is named for John Niederman, the longtime CEO of Pathfinder Services Inc., based in Huntington, Ind. This IACED award recognizes an individual that embodies social entrepreneurship, places people at the center of their work and supports innovation to improve rural communities.*

Recipient: Dr. Janet Ayres, Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University

For more than three decades, Dr. Janet Ayres has worked to improve the quality of life in rural Indiana by building the skills, knowledge and leadership capacity of its residents. She has worked tirelessly in support of conservation, playing an instrumental role in developing the leadership development program for the Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors.

**Key Award for Services Program of the Year**

*An IACED award recognizing a leading program which brings the community together and provides a unique public service.*

Recipient: Neighborhood Spotlight, Legacy Foundation of Lake County

In Lake County, the Legacy Foundation has created an atmosphere for collaboration, trust, and community growth through its willingness to tackle problems adaptively. Neighborhood Spotlight facilitates resident empowerment and collective impact

planning and the leveraging of resources over a multi-year commitment to impact.

**Robert O. Zdenek Staff Member of the Year Award**

*An IACED award recognizing leadership, personal initiative and lasting contributions to their organization and community economic development.*

Recipient: Chris Maples, Director of Advancement, Partners In Housing (Posthumous)

Chris Maples served as Director of Advancement for Partners in Housing, an organization dedicated to providing permanent supportive housing for those in need. A husband and father of two, he valued family and was passionate about creating stability for families struggling with the many issues impacting our homelessness neighbors.

Passing away at just 37 years old, Chris was a creative thinker and developed innovative and exciting events; touching lives far beyond the walls of Partners in Housing, and his work to build community and bring hope and stability to Hoosier families will continue on.

**Michael Carroll Community Economic Development Leadership Award**

*Jointly awarded by IACED and IHCD and recognizing exceptional advocacy, leadership and lasting contributions to the field of affordable housing and community economic development.*

Recipient: Bill Taft, Indianapolis Executive Director, Local Initiatives Support Coalition

As Executive Director of LISC since 2005 and now Program Vice President, Bill has created collaborations and relationships leading to more than \$200 million of direct investment to leverage nearly a billion dollars for core Indianapolis neighborhoods. Bill was the organizing force in the development of the Great Indy Neighborhood Initiative, a comprehensive six-neighborhood effort that has reshaped how Indianapolis redevelops its neighborhood. Bill is now coordinating the launch of Great Places 2020, an unprecedented collaboration that seeks to create six urban villages in Indianapolis.

The winners were selected by a panel of judges with expertise in the housing and community economic development fields. Nominees were selected by a separate committee and were judged based upon their impact, initiative, collaboration and financial soundness and creativity in furthering community economic development throughout Indiana.

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### **About the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority**

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA), chaired by Lt. Governor Ellspermann, provides housing opportunities, promotes self-sufficiency and strengthens communities in order to build an Indiana with a sustainable quality of life for all Hoosiers in the community of their choice. For more information, please visit [www.ihcda.in.gov](http://www.ihcda.in.gov) or [www.in.gov/myihcda](http://www.in.gov/myihcda).

For updates from Lt. Governor Ellspermann and the agencies she oversees, please sign up at [www.lg.in.gov](http://www.lg.in.gov)

### **About the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development**

The Indiana Association for Community Economic Development (IACED) is the state's leading community economic development organization that supports a network of groups and efforts to build vital communities and resilient families throughout Indiana. It advocates for public policies and assists members and community partners in developing solutions that engage local leaders in rebuilding Indiana neighborhoods and communities. For more information, visit [www.iaced.org](http://www.iaced.org).

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For updates from Lt. Governor Ellspermann and the agencies she oversees, visit [www.lg.in.gov](http://www.lg.in.gov).