



Charlotte Chamber Named Among Top 10 Economic Development Groups in the Country Two Years in a Row

May 2, 2011 — For the second year in a row, the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce has been named by *Site Selection Magazine* to its Top Economic Development Groups of the year. The award was presented today during a ceremony at the Industrial Asset Management Council's spring 2011 Professional Forum in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"If overcoming adversity is the path to success in economic development, then the Top Groups of 2010 wrote the book on it," said Ron Starner, general manager of *Site Selection* publisher Conway Data and author of the report. "the challenge, and more, last year. What these groups have in common is a commitment to the long, arduous task of pursuing the fundamentals of sound economic development, and they are willing to invest considerable resources to get the job done."

Local economic development groups were first ranked according to four objective categories: new jobs, new jobs per 10,000 residents, new investment amount and new investment per 10,000 residents. Then they were scrutinized for more subjective attributes — among them innovation, leadership and customer service.

The Charlotte Chamber was selected for this honor for its successful recruitment work in 2010 that included projects with Siemens Energy, ABB, SPX Corporation, Babcock & Wilcox, BAE Systems, Celgard, Husqvarna, Combi, Anderson America, American Red Cross, Citco Fund Services, Clariant, Hewitt Associates, ProFlowers and Saertex. Additionally, the Siemens Energy project received an honorable mention from *Site Selection* for the Top Ten Largest Deals in the U.S. in 2010.

"We are both thrilled and proud to be selected for this prestigious national award yet again," said Bob Morgan, president of the Charlotte Chamber. "Despite the tough economic turn the last two years, our economic development team has worked tirelessly to bring projects from across the globe to Charlotte. Those announcements have led to a significant number of jobs and thus further interest from other companies."

The Charlotte Regional Partnership was also named among the Top 10 groups.

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Press Release

May 2, 2011

Site Selection Names 2010 Competitiveness Award Winner, Top Economic Development Groups and Top Deals

Atlanta, May 2, 2011: Site Selection has named Louisiana Economic Development (LED) the winner of its Competitiveness Award, which recognizes excellence on the part of a state-level economic development group, and its Top Economic Development Groups of 2010. These agencies were honored with plaques at an awards ceremony today at the Industrial Asset Management Council's Spring 2011 Professional Forum at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort and Spa in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The Competitiveness Award goes to the state with the most points earned in a 10-factor index based mainly on Site Selection publisher Conway Data Inc.'s New Plant Database of new and expanded facilities. For 2010 performance, Louisiana Economic Development scored 431 points. Virginia (402), Texas (391), North Carolina (373) and South Carolina (369) round out the top five.

"Our overriding goal is to reposition Louisiana as the economic powerhouse of the South, specifically to enable the state to grow jobs at a faster rate than the South and the U.S. on a sustained basis," says Stephen Moret, secretary, Louisiana Economic Development. "We have accomplished that now for three years in a row, and our goal is to continue that growth in the future."

Site Selection magazine has also named its top non-state-level economic development groups in the U.S. for 2010. The full list of Top Groups and Honorable Mention designees appears below. Coverage of these awards, as well as the Top Deals of the Year (see below) appears in the May 2011 issue.

"If overcoming adversity is the path to success in economic development, then the Top Groups of 2010 wrote the book on it," said Ron Starner, general manager of Site Selection publisher Conway Data and author of the report. "From dealing with the aftermath of hurricanes and spilling oil to rebuilding a city's industrial infrastructure, the top-performing economic development organizations in the U.S. rose to the challenge, and more, last year. What these groups have in common is a commitment to the long, arduous task of pursuing the fundamentals of sound economic development, and they are willing to invest considerable resources to get the job done." Local economic development groups were first ranked according to four objective categories: new jobs, new jobs per 10,000 residents, new investment amount and new investment per 10,000 residents. Then they were scrutinized for more subjective attributes — among them innovation, leadership and customer service.

Top Deals: Facility Reuse for New Industry

The Top Deals of 2010 (see lists below) were determined by level of capital investment, degree of high-value jobs, creativity in negotiations and incentives, regional economic impact, competition for the project and speed to market. "Facility reuse, flexible production, consolidation and creative financing solutions characterized the Top Deals of 2010," writes Managing Editor Adam Bruns in the May issue. "In addition to widely recognized trends toward renewable energy and sustainability-minded products, the deals also feature a strong showing from straightforward manufacturing, often using older space to serve the needs of new waves of industry."

Site Selection magazine, published by Conway Data Inc., delivers expansion planning information to 44,000 executives of fast-growing firms. Now in its 57th year, Site Selection is also available via Site Selection Online (www.siteselection.com). The SiteNet Dispatch, a weekly e-newsletter, and the monthly Site Selection Energy Report and Site Selection Life Sciences Report e-newsletters, also go to more than 44,000 industry professionals. Site Selection is the official publication of the Industrial Asset Management Council (www.iamc.org). Conway Data is an international publishing and association management company headquartered in Atlanta. The firm manages the Industrial Asset Management Council, the Development Hall of Fame and the World Development Federation (WDF), offers consulting services and awards the annual Conway Safe Skies Award.

Top Economic Development Groups of 2010

Baton Rouge Area Chamber, La.
Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, N.C.
Charlotte Regional Partnership, N.C.
Cincinnati USA, Ohio
Davidson County Economic Development Commission, N.C.
Economic Futures Group/Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce, S.C.
Greater Houston Partnership, Texas
Indy Partnership, Indiana
Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance, La.
Wayne County Economic Development Growth Engine, Mich.
World Business Chicago, Ill.

Honorable Mention Economic Development Groups of 2010

Austin Chamber of Commerce, Texas
Columbus2020!, Ohio
Dallas Regional Chamber, Texas
Fort Worth Chamber, Texas
Greater Louisville Inc., Ky.
Greater Memphis Chamber, Tenn.
Greater New Orleans Inc., La.
Kansas City Area Development Council, Mo.
Metro Atlanta Chamber, Ga.
Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, Pa.