

Press Release

For business editors

Larry J. Larese Receives PA Economic Development Association's President's Award



Pictured left to right-Linda Nitch, Larry J. Larese, Joshua L. Skopp

The Pennsylvania Economic Development Association's President Linda Nitch recognized Larry J. Larese to receive the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association's President's Award during the annual awards ceremony held this year at Toftrees Resort in State College on October 4th.

Larry J. Larese was recognized for his forty years of experience in the fields of economic development and planning, particularly specializing in the development and marketing of industrial parks.

Over the course of his career, Larry has directed hundreds of millions of dollars into community improvements throughout Westmoreland County. He is also responsible for the implementation of an aggressive economic development strategy that began in the 1980's resulting in more parks in Westmoreland County than in any other county in Pennsylvania. In 2001, Larry was recognized as PEDA's Economic Developer of the Year.

Recently retired, Larry previously served as Director of Westmoreland County's Department of Planning and Development and also as Executive Director of the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation. Larry administered a staff of over 20 from the time he was appointed Director in 1972, at which time he was the youngest Planning Director in Pennsylvania at age 24.

Some of the many highlights of Larry's career include:

- Implementing Strategy 21, a \$300 million dollar economic rebuilding initiative designed to counteract the 1980's demise of the domestic steel industry. This strategy included a multitude of transportation improvements and resulted in the formation of the Amos K. Hutchinson Bypass and the Route 22 reconstruction, industrial park development and revitalization projects.
- Spearheading the consolidation of 3 development organizations within the county, which resulted in the creation of the Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland, a private, non-profit responsible for administering all the state, federal and local financing incentives to manufacturers.
- Developing 16 industrial parks, including 4 Brownfield Redevelopment Projects which resulted in the attraction of 123 businesses employing 9,000 people.
- Increasing the NET WORTH of the WCIDC from zero dollars in 1983 to 56 million in 2010.

Now that Larry has retired, he can enjoy pursuing his hobbies - which include Fly Fishing, Golfing, and Turkey Hunting - in addition to basking in the glow of his many professional accomplishments and relationships he's cultivated through the years.

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