

# **EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2007**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION**



**AMERICAN JOBS ★ AMERICAN VALUES**



*U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Sandy K. Baruah together with Congressman John T. Salazar presented the 2006 Excellence in Economic Development Award for Economic Adjustment to the city of Pueblo, CO, on Tuesday, October 10, 2006.*

**Pictured L-R:** Pueblo City Council President Mike Occhiato, Congressman John T. Salazar, Assistant Secretary Baruah and Assistant City Manager for Planning and Community Development Jim Munch.



*U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Sandy K. Baruah together with Congressman Wally Herger presented the 2006 Excellence in Economic Development Award for Rural Economic Development to Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corporation (YSEDC) at the California State Capitol Steps, Sacramento, CA, on Friday, October 6, 2006.*

**Pictured L-R:** State Senator Sam Aanestad, YSEDC Secretary Tim Johnson, Congressman Wally Herger, Assistant Secretary Baruah and Dan Flores, CEO of Cambridge Career College, and President of the Board of Directors of YSEDC.



*U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Sandy K. Baruah presented the 2006 Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration Excellence in Economic Development Award for Enhancing Regional Competitiveness to Catalyst Connection in Pittsburgh, PA, on Tuesday, September 5, 2006.*

**Pictured L-R:** Charles A. Thomas, President and CEO of Solid State Measurements and Chairman of the Board of Directors for Catalyst Connection; Senator Rick Santorum; Assistant Secretary Baruah; Steven G. Zylstra, President and CEO of Catalyst Connection; Congresswoman Melissa Hart; Petra Mitchell, Vice President of Operations at Catalyst Connection.



*U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Sandy K. Baruah together with Congressman Ron Lewis presented the 2006 Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration Excellence in Economic Development Award for Innovation to ConnectKentucky in Bowling Green, KY, on Wednesday, August 30, 2006.*

**Pictured L-R:** Kentucky House Speaker Jody Richardson, State Senator Guthrie, Congressman Ron Lewis, ConnectKentucky CEO Brian Mefford, Assistant Secretary Baruah, Kentucky Executive Cabinet Secretary Robbie Rudolph, and Warren County Judge Executive Mike Buckanan.



Dear Colleagues:

President Bush has said, "The role of government is to create conditions in which jobs are created, in which people can find work." The twin goals of his Administration are to increase the productivity and wealth of the American economy; and, to ensure that all communities share in economic opportunity.

The challenge for today's state and local officials and economic development organizations is to fashion action-oriented, market-based strategies to ensure they are positioned not just to compete, but thrive in the 21st century's global economy. The use of such best practices is a key strategy in achieving successful results.

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) proudly presents the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2007. The competition is open to nonprofit organizations, local, state and regional government entities, universities and colleges. Nominations for the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2007 will be accepted in the following categories:

- Excellence in Urban or Suburban Economic Development
- Excellence in Rural Economic Development
- Excellence in Enhancing Regional Competitiveness
- Excellence in Economic Adjustment Strategies
- Excellence in Technology-led Economic Development
- Excellence in Community and Faith-Based Social Entrepreneurship
- Excellence in Innovation

A highly qualified and independent panel of economic development practitioners, academics, and government representatives will make the award selections. Nomination criteria and application information are provided on the following pages. Award ceremonies will be held in the winners' respective communities following EDA's announcement of the seven winning nominations on May 30, 2007. The Awards are commemorative and each winner's congressional delegation will be invited to present the Awards together with senior officials of the Department of Commerce

If you have any questions please contact Ms. Barbara Earman in EDA's Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Division at 202-482-4521. We look forward to receiving your nomination for the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sandy K. Baruah".

Sandy K. Baruah  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
for Economic Development



## Overview

The Excellence in Economic Development Awards (Awards) 2007 recognizes innovative economic development strategies of national significance. The Awards are designed to showcase best practices and highlight outstanding results. Nominations are made in specific categories, provided below. A Selection Panel, appointed by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, then evaluates the nominations. The Awards are commemorative and will be presented in award ceremonies in the winners' respective communities following EDA's announcement of the seven winning nominations. Members of the winners' respective congressional delegations will be invited to present the Award with senior officials of the Department of Commerce.

This brochure describes the rules and procedures governing the competition for the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2007, including eligibility, selection criteria, nomination and selection processes, selection panel members, and other information needed to submit a nomination. A nomination form provided on page seven must be completed and included in your nomination package.

### **EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2007**

#### **Key Dates**

**April 12, 2007 Nomination Deadline**

**May 15, 2007 Finalists Announced**

**May 30, 2007 Winners Announced**

EDA will contact finalists and winners by phone and will post their names on [www.eda.gov](http://www.eda.gov).

Each winner of the EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2007 will receive their Award in presentation ceremonies held in their community during the second half of the year.

#### **Nomination Procedure**

Nominations for the EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2007 may be submitted by any eligible organization or individual, excluding selection panel members. A bona fide representative of the nominated organization must endorse the nomination. This individual will serve as the official representative of the organization for such purposes as providing any additionally requested information, unless EDA is advised otherwise. Nominations must be submitted in accordance with the instructions provided on page six.

Additional copies of this nomination brochure may be obtained directly from EDA's Web site, [www.eda.gov](http://www.eda.gov), or by contacting Ms. Barbara Earman at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Division of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, 1401 Constitution Avenue, Northwest, Washington, DC 20230; (202) 482-4521.



## Selection Process

**EDA** employees review each nomination received for completeness and adherence to the rules of the competition. Each complete and eligible nomination is forwarded to the selection panel to be competitively evaluated by at least three panelists according to the selection criteria provided on page five.

The top three nominations in each of the seven award categories advance as finalists. The selection panel ranks the finalists, for consideration by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, using the announced criteria. The Assistant Secretary then selects the winners. If no finalist in an award category achieves the level of excellence contemplated in this award, the Assistant Secretary may decide not to make an award in that category.

EDA may amend the selection process from one year to the next, but shall not alter the rules for a given year once the initial announcement is made. EDA staff and Selection Panel members reserve the right to contact nominees in order to verify information submitted or to obtain additional information necessary to evaluate the nomination. Nominees are under no obligation to provide this information, but should recognize that failure to provide the information may lower their chances of being selected as a winner.

### Nominee Eligibility

#### Eligible nominees include:

- Nonprofit organizations;
- Local, state and regional governments; and,
- Universities and colleges.

#### Nominated investments may include:

- Specific projects of national importance; or
- Cumulative activities of the nominee.

**For-profit firms and institutions are not eligible for nomination.**

## Selection Panel

In any given year, the selection panel is composed of as many as seven individuals, selected by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development in the following categories:

- one representative of the nonfederal economic development practitioner community;
- one member from academe;
- two representatives of the Economic Development Administration; and,
- three at-large members.

Selection panel members may not be employees, officers, consultants, or contractors of any nominated organization. In the event such a conflict of interest is discovered, either the selection panel member shall be removed from the selection process or the nominated organization shall withdraw its entry. The Assistant Secretary may replace any selection panel member who resigns. The term of a selection panel member shall be one year.





# **Award Categories for EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2007**

## **Excellence in Urban or Suburban Economic Development**

- The nomination utilizes innovative, market-based strategies to improve urban or suburban economic development results.

## **Excellence in Rural Economic Development**

- The nomination utilizes innovative, market-based strategies to improve rural economic development results.

## **Excellence in Enhancing Regional Competitiveness**

- The nomination enhances regional competitiveness and supports long-term development of the regional economy.

## **Excellence in Economic Adjustment Strategies**

- The nomination helps communities plan and implement economic adjustment strategies in response to sudden and severe economic dislocations.

## **Excellence in Technology-led Economic Development**

- The nomination supports technology-led economic development and demonstrates the important role of linking universities, industry and technology transfers.

## **Excellence in Community and Faith-Based Social Entrepreneurship**

- The nomination advances community and faith-based social entrepreneurship in redevelopment strategies for areas of chronic economic distress.

## **Excellence in Innovation**

- The nomination incorporates innovative strategies for maximum results.



## Five Selection Criteria

*Nominations will be competitively evaluated on their ability to meet or exceed the following selection criteria:*

### **The nomination is market-based and results driven.**

- The nomination capitalizes on a region's competitive strengths and positively moves a regional economic indicator, such as: an increased number of higher-skill, higher-wage jobs; increased tax revenue; or, increased private-sector investment.

### **The nomination has strong organizational leadership.**

- The nomination has strong leadership, excellent project management, and includes significant commitment of human resources talent to ensure the project's successful execution.

### **The nomination advances productivity, innovation and entrepreneurship.**

- The nomination embraces the principles of entrepreneurship, enhances regional clusters, and leverages and links technology innovators and local universities to the private sector to create the conditions for greater productivity, innovation, and job creation. Provide demonstrative evidence that the nomination advances productivity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

### **The nomination looks beyond the immediate economic horizon, anticipates economic changes, and diversifies the local and regional economy.**

- The nomination is part of an overarching, long-term, comprehensive economic development strategy that enhances a region's success in achieving a rising standard of living by supporting existing industry clusters, developing emerging clusters, or attracting new regional economic drivers.

### **The nomination demonstrates a high-degree of commitment by exhibiting the following:**

- High levels of local government or non-profit matching funds and private sector leverage;
- Clear and unified leadership and support by local elected officials; and,
- Strong cooperation between the business sector, relevant regional partners, and local, state and federal government.



## EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2007 Instructions for Submitting Nominations

- Your nomination may be submitted in only **one** of the seven categories.
- Your nomination should address each of the five selection criteria provided on page five. You may include **a statement totaling no more than five pages** to discuss the nominee's achievements in the five criteria.
- Please do not include any additional materials, such as promotional materials, annual reports, etc. Such items will not be considered by the selection panel.
- Your nomination may include as many as three letters of support. Each support letter must be **attached** to your nomination. Support letters that arrive after the submission deadline or separately from your nomination will not be considered by the selection panel.
- Your nomination may include as many as three print or electronic photographs. All photographs must be **attached** to your nomination. Photographs, in any format, that arrive after the submission deadline or separately from your nomination will not be considered by the selection panel. EDA is unable to return submitted photographs.
- For nominations mailed or couriered as hard copy, please provide an original complete nomination plus **four copies** of your complete nomination package. For nomination packages sent electronically, please attach all documents to just one email.
- Your nomination may be sent by US mail, by a courier service or electronically. However, your complete nomination must be sent by only **one** of these methods. Nominees are encouraged to remember that issues may arise that could delay your mail delivery in Washington, DC. Delivery by a courier service such as FedEx, UPS, etc. is recommended.
- Courier or mail your nomination to: Attention: EDA Excellence Awards 2007  
Economic Development Administration  
Department of Commerce, Room 7816  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230
- E-mail **one complete** nomination package to: [awards@eda.doc.gov](mailto:awards@eda.doc.gov)  
Please consolidate your nomination into one email attachment. Please **do not send multiple emails**.  
A letter acknowledging receipt of your nomination will be mailed to you.
- Nominations must be received by close of business on **April 12, 2007**.
- Electronic copies of this nomination brochure may be downloaded from [www.eda.gov](http://www.eda.gov). Additional copies may be requested by calling EDA's Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 482-2900.



**This Information Page must be completed and attached as the first page of your nomination package. You may download this page, complete it as a fillable MSWord document ([click here](#)) and attach it to your nomination package as hardcopy or as an emailed nomination. Please provide all information requested below. This completed page must accompany your nomination for the EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2007.**

Organization name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Congressional District(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred telephone contact number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Web address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Mark **only one** of the following to indicate the nomination category:*

- Excellence in Urban or Suburban Economic Development
- Excellence in Rural Economic Development
- Excellence in Enhancing Regional Competitiveness
- Excellence in Economic Adjustment Strategies
- Excellence in Technology-led Economic Development
- Excellence in Community and Faith-Based Social Entrepreneurship
- Excellence in Innovation

**For Agency Use Only.** Logged by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

Timely receipt of complete application  
 Yes  No

Number of support letters included \_\_\_\_\_

*Mark **only one** of the following to indicate the nomination type:*

- Organization's overall efforts, or
- Specific program or project of the organization:  
 Provide name of specific program or project: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No EDA is hereby authorized to publish a summary of this nomination if it qualifies as a finalist.

Yes  No EDA is hereby authorized to publish contact information, including address, phone, fax, e-mail and website, provided in this nomination.

**Nominee Certification**

Signature of Nominee Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

*I certify that I have the authority to represent the nominee organization in public matters. I also certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the substantive statements in this application are true. I understand that if this application is found to contain substantive and willful misrepresentations, the nominee will be disqualified from the award competition. [Your signature will be accepted on electronic submissions.]*

**Please complete the following contact information of Nominee Representative:**

*(This information will be used in contacting finalists and winners)*

Print name of nominee representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Print title of nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative's preferred telephone contact number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Confidentiality**

The selection scores and content deliberations used to select finalists and winners will not be disclosed except to the extent provided by law.

**Endorsements**

The Award for Excellence in Economic Development is honorary only, and does not constitute an endorsement of any revenue producing goods, publications, or services the winner may offer.



Additional copies of the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2007 nomination brochure can be downloaded from the EDA Web site at [www.eda.gov](http://www.eda.gov) or may be requested by calling EDA Headquarters, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 482-2900.

*Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Approved Number for this Collection is 0610-0101 expires 06/30/2008.*

*The information is used by EDA to recognize outstanding economic development activities of national importance and to determine those applicants best meeting the preannounced criteria. No confidentiality for the information submitted is promised or provided except that which is exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) as confidential business information.*

*The public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 3 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: Economic Development Administration, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Washington, D.C. 20230, and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.*

*U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Sandy K. Baruah together with Governor John Hoeven presented the 2006 EDA Excellence in Economic Development Award for Technology-led Economic Development to North Dakota State University's Research and Technology Park in Fargo, ND, on August 28, 2006.*

**Pictured L-R:** North Dakota Governor John Hoeven, NDSU President Joseph Chapman, and Assistant Secretary Baruah.



*U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Sandy K. Baruah together with Congressman Bobby L. Rush presented the 2006 EDA Excellence in Economic Development Award for Urban or Suburban Economic Development to Tinley Park, IL.*

**Pictured L-R:** Tinley Park Trustee Patrick Rea; Assistant Secretary Baruah; Tinley Park Mayor Ed Zabrocki and Congressman Bobby L. Rush.



*U.S. Assistant Secretary Sandy K. Baruah together with Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond and Congressman Wm. Lacy Clay presented the EDA Excellence Award for Community and Faith-Based Social Entrepreneurship to St. Patrick Center in St. Louis, MO, on December 19, 2006.*

**Top photo:** Senator Bond, center, giving congratulatory remarks, and pictured L-R, Assistant Secretary Baruah, St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay, Senator Bond, Congressman Clay, Most Reverend Raymond Leo Burke, Archbishop of St. Louis, St. Patrick Center CEO Dan Buck (hidden) and Raymond T. Wagner, Board President, St. Patrick Center.

**Lower photo, pictured L-R:** holding the Award, are Board President Wagner, Assistant Secretary Baruah, Congressman Clay, CEO Buck and Mayor Slay.



# FINALISTS

## EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2006

On May 15, 2006, EDA was pleased to announce the twenty Finalists for the EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2006 (Awards 2006). Nominations for Awards 2006 that received the three highest evaluations in their respective category qualified as a Finalist.

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Sandy K. Baruah announced the winners of EDA's Awards 2006 on May 30, 2006. Together with Members of each winner's congressional delegation, Assistant Secretary Baruah presented Awards 2006 in ceremonies held in their respective communities during the second half of the year.

Finalists in each category are listed below alphabetically. Winners in each category are indicated with an asterisk.

---

In the category of **Urban or Suburban Economic Development** the nominations are evaluated to determine how effectively they utilize innovative, market-based strategies to improve urban or suburban economic development. The three Finalists follow:

**Industrial Development Authority,  
City of Los Angeles, California**  
Specific Program: Empowerment  
Zone Bond  
*Los Angeles, California*

**San Antonio Economic  
Development Foundation**  
*San Antonio, Texas*

\***Tinley Park Economic Development**  
*Tinley Park, Illinois*



In the category of **Rural Economic Development** the nominations are evaluated to determine how effectively they utilize innovative, market-based strategies to improve rural economic development results. The three Finalists follow:

**Missouri Biotechnology Association**  
Specific Program: Rural Biotechnology  
Initiative Project Number 11-302  
*Jefferson City, Missouri*

**Ravalli County Economic  
Development Authority**  
*Hamilton, Montana*

\***Yuba-Sutter Economic Development  
Corporation**  
*Yuba City, California*

---

In the category of **Enhancing Regional Competitiveness** the nominations are evaluated to determine how effectively they enhance regional competitiveness and support long-term development of the regional economy. The three Finalists follow:

\***Catalyst Connection**  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

**Lane County Community and  
Economic Development**  
Specific Program: Community and  
Economic Development  
*Eugene, Oregon*

**Valley Initiative for Development and  
Advancement (VIDA)**  
*Weslaco, Texas*

---

In the category of **Economic Adjustment Strategies** the nominations are evaluated to determine how effectively they help communities plan and implement economic adjustment strategies in response to sudden and severe economic dislocations. The three Finalists are:

\***The City of Pueblo, Colorado**  
*Pueblo, Colorado*

**Greater Norfolk Economic  
Development Foundation, Inc.**  
*Norfolk, Nebraska*

**Lincoln Trail Area  
Development District**  
Specific Program: One Knox Policy  
Council  
*Elizabethtown, Kentucky*

In the category of **Technology-led Economic Development** the nominations are evaluated to determine how effectively they support technology-led economic development and reflect the important role of linking universities and industries and technology transfers. The three Finalists are:

**North Country Council, Inc. and  
Grafton County Economic  
Development Council**  
Specific Program: Dartmouth Regional  
Technology Center  
*Bethlehem, New Hampshire*

\***North Dakota State University Research  
and Technology Park, Inc.**  
*Fargo, North Dakota*

**University of Florida, Office of  
Technology Licensing**  
Specific Program: EDA University  
Center Program  
*Gainesville, Florida*

---

In the category of **Community and Faith-Based Social Entrepreneurship** the nominations are evaluated to determine how effectively they advance community and faith-based social entrepreneurship in redevelopment strategies for areas of chronic, economic distress. The two Finalists follow:

\***Saint Patrick Center**  
*St. Louis, Missouri*

**Southeast Tennessee  
Development District**  
Specific Program: Southeast Tennessee  
Religious Heritage Trail  
*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

---

In the category of **Innovation** the nominations are evaluated to determine how effectively they incorporate innovative strategies for maximum results. The three Finalists follow:

**Business Innovation Factory**  
*Providence, Rhode Island*

\***ConnectKentucky**  
Specific Program: Prescription  
for Innovation  
*Bowling Green, Kentucky*

**Paulding County Board  
of Commissioners**  
Specific Program: New and competitive  
solution for urban and economic  
development as part of the world economy  
*Dallas, Georgia*