

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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11/15/11 -- Expansion Solutions Magazine Presents its 2011 "Top Five" Awards of Excellence

PELHAM, AL -- *Expansion Solutions Magazine* recently announced its Fifth Annual "Top Five" Awards of Excellence. These awards recognize economic development organizations which have shown exceptional progress and potential in the area of development – by successfully recruiting, retaining and assisting growing businesses. These locations were chosen because of the incredible support system offered to businesses as well as recent activity and potential growth that can be created in each area. Their strategic locations, pro-business climates, investments made in improving infrastructure and the availability of buildings and sites were among the top deciding factors in choosing these locations.

"We are excited about giving national recognition to these organizations as it further demonstrates their leadership role in business retention, expansion and relocation," said Kimberly Merkel, Editor of *Expansion Solutions Magazine*. "Not only does it showcase each area for their success in recruiting and retaining businesses, it also is a source of pride for each award winner's city, county, state and economic development department."

The winners are listed in alphabetical order and are reflective of the top five selections. For more information on these organizations and the areas they serve, please visit our website at: www.ExpansionSolutionsMagazine.com.

2011 "Top Five" Awards of Excellence

Automotive

Economic Futures Group
Spartansburg, SC

El Paso Regional Economic
Development Corporation (REDCO)
El Paso, TX

Greater Kokomo Economic
Development Alliance
Kokomo, IN

NETWORKS - Sullivan Partnership
Blountville, TN

Union County Development
Association
New Albany, MS

Data Centers

Catawba County Economic
Development Corporation
Hickory, NC

City of Draper Economic Development
Draper, UT

City of Highland
Highland, IL

City of Guntersville
Guntersville, AL

Schertz Economic Development
Corporation
Schertz, TX

2011 “Top Five” Awards of Excellence

Defense

Greater Jackson Alliance
Jackson, MS

Hagerstown - Washington County
Economic Development Commission
Hagerstown, MD

Fayetteville - Cumberland County
Chamber of Commerce
Fayetteville, NC

Metro Little Rock Alliance
Little Rock, AR

Quad Cities First
Davenport, IA / Moline, IL

Logistics

City of Barstow
Barstow, CA

Go Topeka Economic Development
Partnership
Topeka, KS

Midland Development Corporation
Midland, TX

Salt Lake City Office of Economic
Development
Salt Lake City, UT

Valdosta-Lowndes County Industrial
Authority
Valdosta, GA

Solar

Austin Chamber of Commerce
Austin, TX

Columbus – Lowndes County
Development Link
Columbus, MS

Desoto County Economic
Development Office
Arcadia, FL

Greater Phoenix Economic Council
(GPEC)
Phoenix, AZ

Southern California Edison
Irwindale, CA

Warehouse/Distribution

High Point Economic Development
Corporation
High Point, NC

Lubbock Economic Development
Alliance
Lubbock, TX

Mercedes Economic Development
Corporation
Mercedes, TX

Midlothian Corporation for Economic
Development
Midlothian, TX

Southwest Louisiana Economic
Development Alliance
Lake Charles, LA

Wind

Amarillo Economic Development
Corporation
Amarillo, TX

Beaver County Economic
Development Corporation
Beaver, UT

Iowa City Area Development Group
Iowa City, Iowa

Lee’s Summit Economic Development
Council
Lee’s Summit, MO

South Jersey Port Corporation
Camden, NJ