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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC State of the Region 2014 Award Nominees

(Columbus – March 13, 2014) Community leaders who have made extraordinary efforts in contributing to the welfare of Central Ohioans will be honored by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) at the State of the Region Luncheon on Thursday, April 17 at the George Bellows Ballroom, Hilton downtown, Columbus. An awards ceremony honoring the winners of these prestigious awards is scheduled to take place at the luncheon.

The William C. Habig Collaborative Achievement award was created in 2006 in honor of William C. Habig, who served MORPC for 39 years, 34 years as executive director. The William C. Habig Collaborative Achievement award is annually presented to an individual or individuals who have achieved an effective effort or innovative collaborative in Central Ohio. The honoree (s) will have demonstrated success in developing a specific initiative or entity that supports broad inclusion and encourages diverse perspectives. The initiative or entity delivers tangible results addressing key challenges facing the region. The 2014 Nominees include:

- Big Green Head – Karen Ferris CEO - Big Green Head developed an E-waste Drop-off Program that allows residents the opportunity to conveniently and responsibly dispose of obsolete, unwanted and broken electronics, with a portion of the proceeds going to charity.
- Economic Development 411 (ED 411) - ED411 is an annual half day conference developed in 2012 in partnership with the Columbus 2020, Mid-Ohio Development Exchange (MODE) and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. Best practices in fueling successful job growth to foster vibrant communities are presented providing all participants with valuable information critical to planning and resource allocation.
- Godman Guild - Ellen Moss Williams –The Food District at Weinland Park was a 2 1/2 year collaborative effort of a diverse and engaged project team comprised of representatives from Godman Guild, Local Matters, Wagenbrenner Development, DesignGroup, MKSK, The Ohio State University, and MORPC. The project partners developed a business plan, education plan, capital campaign plan, and schematic designs for a state of the art food processing, education, and celebration facility in the Columbus neighborhood Weinland Park.
- Educational Service Center (ESC) of Central Ohio – ESC explored opportunities for shared services among local governments and school systems.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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- Global Columbus - Global Columbus is a community initiative to bring together a diverse group of organizations who share a common goal to strengthen and grow opportunities for Central Ohio as a *globally fluent* region.
- City of Grove City, Franklin County Board of Commissioners, Jackson & Pleasant Townships - City of Grove City/Franklin County Board of Commissioners/Jackson Township/Pleasant Township Radio Systems Collaborative. The collaborative envisioned and proceeded to implement an initiative with broad inclusion resulting in improved safety at a total estimated savings of \$7.2 million.
- idUS - an initiative of 200Columbus – a celebration of innovation and design intended to exemplify the city’s “smart and open” brand characteristics and advance the goals of 200Columbus.
- Ohio Solar Communities Consortium - a regional effort to make smaller scale solar projects economically attractive to government and non-profit entities.
- The Lancaster Cause/Ron Burris - a nonprofit group formed to address the drug addiction problem in Lancaster and Fairfield County leading to a new drug task force, drug awareness programs, rehab and education programs.

First introduced in 1997, the Regional Leadership Award recognizes individuals in a 12-county region (Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway, Ross and Union counties) who make extraordinary efforts to ensure the future viability of the region's communities. The Regional Leadership Award is derived from the Commission's continuing dedication to addressing issues that transcend community boundaries and to stimulating visionary thinking. The 2014 Nominees include:

- David Anderson, Liberty Township Administrator
- Eld. Joseph L. Barnes Sr. – Mayor of Urbancrest
- Louis J.R. Goorey, M.D.
- Marjory Pizzuti, Goodwill Columbus
- Michael Wilkos, The Columbus Foundation

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