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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **MORPC State of the Region Event Honors Community Leaders**

**(Columbus – April 17, 2014)** Community leaders who made extraordinary efforts in contributing to the welfare of Central Ohioans were honored by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) at the State of the Region Luncheon held April 17, 2014 at the Hilton in downtown Columbus.

The Economic Development 411 (ED411) event was the recipient of the William C. Habig Collaborative Achievement award. 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.

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.

Eric Phillips, Marysville and Union County Economic Development Director, was recognized with the William H. Anderson Excellence in Public Service Award. The William H. Anderson Award recognizes a current or past board member who exemplifies outstanding leadership, a vision for the community and the region, and commitment to MORPC. William H. Anderson, a longtime MORPC board member, was the epitome of a civic volunteer who is remembered for his zeal with which he championed MORPC'S mission and goals. Eric Phillips has been a member of MORPC's board since 2004 and has served on several MORPC committees including the Executive Search Committee. Phillips is well deserving of the William H. Anderson Award.

"This award is for those individuals who work the hardest, give the most of themselves, and provide exceptional leadership as Board members of MORPC," states Matt Greeson, Worthington City Manager. "Eric is among the most dedicated members of MORPC and the Central Ohio region and is highly deserving of this honor."

Marjory Pizzuti, President and CEO of Goodwill Columbus, is the recipient of the Regional Leadership Award. Pizzuti's impact on Central Ohio enabled citizens with many challenges to grow in self confidence, skills, and job worthiness. To see those in the work force at Kroger's, Walmart, Giant Eagle, Honda, Goodwill and many other companies, motivates each of us to contribute in uplifting and helping others become self reliant.

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*Working to Build a Better Region*

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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 stimulates visionary thinking.

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*MORPC is a voluntary association of local governments in Central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing.*