



# Joint Industrial Development Authority

of Wythe County, Wytheville & Rural Retreat

150 East Monroe Street • P. O. Box 569 • Wytheville, Virginia 24382  
Phone: 276-223-3370 • Fax: 276-223-3427 • Email: [JointIDA@wytheville.org](mailto:JointIDA@wytheville.org)

Dr. Alan Hawthorne, Executive Director  
Michael Webb, Associate Director  
Linda D. Lester, Administrative Assistant

Steven D. Irvin, Chairman  
Joseph W. Freeman, Vice Chairman  
Robert J. Ayers  
Gerald L. Brewer  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Joint IDA Selected as National Finalist for Excellence in Rural Economic Development Award**

WYTHEVILLE—The Economic Development Administration of the U. S. Department of Commerce has announced its finalists for the 2004 EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards. The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat is one of three finalists in the Rural Economic Development category. Nominations in this category were evaluated to determine how effectively they utilize innovative, market-based strategies to improve rural economic development results. Other finalists in this category are Utah State University and the City of Lincoln, Alabama. Virginia Tech's Corporate Research Center is the only other Virginia finalist and is competing in the Technology-led Economic Development category. Winners of the EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards will be announced on May 17 and will be presented at the EDA Award Ceremony held June 9 in the Courtyard of the Rayburn House Office Building, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, as part of the EDA National Conference. A complete list of various categories and finalists in each category can be found at [www.EDA.gov/NewsEvents/ExcellenceAwards.xml](http://www.EDA.gov/NewsEvents/ExcellenceAwards.xml).

“Since declaring its objective to become one of Virginia's premier local economic development agencies, the Joint Industrial Development Authority has focused on achieving technical excellence, seeking to maximize resources, and acquiring the jobs and investment needed to enhance the community's attractiveness to businesses,” said Congressman Rick Boucher, who nominated the Joint IDA for the EDA Excellence in Economic Development Award. “I congratulate the staff of the Joint IDA for this well-deserved achievement and thank them for the excellent work they do on behalf of Wythe County.”

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For additional information, contact:

Alan Hawthorne, Executive Director  
Joint IDA of Wythe County  
(276) 223-3370  
[JointIDA@wytheville.org](mailto:JointIDA@wytheville.org)  
[www.WytheIDA.org](http://www.WytheIDA.org)

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