



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

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

Steven D. Irvin, Chairman
Thomas Green III, Vice Chairman
Robert J. Ayers
Gerald L. Brewer
Joseph W. Freeman
Danny B. Gordon
George T. Johnstone

PRESS RELEASE

Joint IDA Among Nation's Top Economic Development Groups

WYTHEVILLE—*Site Selection*, a premier economic development trade magazine, has named the Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat as one of the nation's Top Economic Development Groups for 2002. The Joint IDA joins local or regional economic development organizations from Broomfield, Colo., Corpus Christi, Tex., Durant, Okla., Shreveport, La., Hagerstown, Md., London, Ont., (Canada), Oceanside, Calif., Prince William County, Va., and Raleigh, N.C. as one of the Top 10 Groups for 2002. Virginia was the only state (or province) to have more than one economic development organization selected as a Top 10 Group.

The current (May) issue of *Site Selection* introduces the award winners by noting that "Innovation, savvy, and regionalism are the earmarks of the nation's top local economic developers." Conway Data, Inc. (parent company of *Site Selection* magazine), announced the winners by saying that "these 10 agencies, as well as the 10 honorable mentions, have met the challenge of a difficult economy head-on, and promise to be among the leaders coming out of the gate as that economy regains momentum."

To be selected as one of the Top Economic Development Groups, organizations were first ranked according to four objective categories: new jobs, new jobs per 10,000 residents, new investment amount, and new investment per 10,000 residents. Then they were scrutinized for more subjective attributes—among them innovation, leadership, and customer service—for the final selection.

The Press Release announcing the 2002 Top Economic Development Groups can be viewed at <http://www.conway.com/cdi/press/pdf/TopGroups02.pdf>.

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For additional information, contact:

Alan Hawthorne, Executive Director
Joint IDA of Wythe County
(276) 223-3370
JointIDA@wytheville.org
www.WytheIDA.org

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