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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ECIDA's redevelopment of former Bethlehem Steel site honored with "Excellence in Economic Development Award"**

*D.C.-based International Economic Development Council announced 2022 winners at September 20 ceremony in Oklahoma City*

Washington, D.C. — The International Economic Development Council (IEDC), the largest nonprofit professional association for professional economic developers in the world, has presented the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) and its land development arm, the Industrial Development Corporation (ILDC) the Silver "Excellence in Economic Development, Multi-Year Development Program" award for the ECIDA/ILDC's efforts in transforming the former Bethlehem Steel site.

The ECIDA/ILDC has redeveloped formerly stagnant acreage along Route 5 on the shuttered steel plant site into what is now known as Renaissance Commerce Park, an advanced manufacturing campus that is now home to a new 290,000 square foot manufacturing facility and two distribution warehouse spec buildings under construction.

"This prestigious honor helps to recognize the outstanding work that is conducted on a regular basis by the Erie County Industrial Development Agency," **said Erie County Executive and ILDC Chair Mark C. Poloncarz.** "The economic development projects that have been overseen by the ECIDA during my tenure in office represent exciting revitalization efforts that have energized our region and provide great hope for the future. I thank ECIDA President & CEO John Cappellino and his entire staff for their continued leadership and vision and congratulate them on receiving this well-deserved award."

The IEDC honors organizations and individuals for exemplary economic development programs annually in twenty-five award categories, recognizing their efforts to create positive change in urban, suburban, & rural communities. Awards are judged by a diverse panel of economic and community developers from around the world. IEDC received over 500 submissions from the United States and four countries around the world.

"On behalf of the ECIDA Board of Directors and staff, I thank the IEDC for honoring our efforts to build Renaissance Commerce Park where the remnants of Bethlehem Steel once stood," **said ECIDA/ILDC President and CEO John Cappellino.** "We are extremely proud of the future we are building on a site that once represented such economic and personal loss for the communities of Lackawanna and Western New York. Our path to this point has been challenging, but we are seeing this future take shape, in large part due to the County Executive's vision and leadership as ILDC Chair. This recognition means a great deal to the coalition of public and private community stakeholders that has worked so hard to transform this site," said Cappellino.

For more information about Renaissance Commerce Park, please visit [www.ecidany.com/RCP](http://www.ecidany.com/RCP)

*The Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) is a public benefit corporation sanctioned by the State of New York to offer tax incentives to qualified businesses, and is dedicated to furthering economic development, adaptive reuse of qualified properties, job creation and ensuring a*

*thriving business environment in Erie County. The staff of the ECIDA are not employees of the City of Buffalo, the County of Erie, or the State of New York. The ECIDA does not receive operating funds from taxpayer revenues. The ECIDA receives its operating funds by collecting fees from businesses that enter into contracts with the Agency, from investments, and from loan fees.*

*For more information, visit [www.ecidany.com](http://www.ecidany.com)*

***The International Economic Development Council (IEDC)*** *is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,800 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities by creating, retaining, and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members engage in the full range of economic development practices. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in various settings, including local, state, provincial, and federal governments, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities, and a variety of other institutions. When we succeed, our members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions. Learn more at [www.iedconline.org](http://www.iedconline.org)*