



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Paula Hazlewood of Gateway Development Corporation in Washington County has been named the 2010 Nebraska Economic Developers Association (NEDA) Professional of the Year.

The award will be presented by the State's largest association of economic development professionals at its spring conference May 13th in Gering. Hazlewood is the Executive Director of Gateway Development Corp.

Richard Baier, Director of Nebraska Department of Economic Development, said, "While Paula is relatively new to the economic development business, she exhibits an outstanding ability to support growth within her existing employers while also successfully championing Blair/Washington County as a leading growth center for greater Omaha area. She truly understands the importance of workforce training and the impact it has on business profitability. Her region is fortunate to have a person of her skills and abilities represent them in our increasingly competitive global marketplace."

Hazlewood along with Dee Haussler of Hastings Economic Development Corp. are the inaugural winners of the Professional of the Year awards. Hazlewood is the winner among metropolitan, regional and statewide organizations.

The awards gives an opportunity for our members to be recognized by their peers for outstanding work in creating jobs and investment, organizing community stakeholders and showing leadership in the profession," said Devin Meisinger, 2010 NEDA President. "The nominations for this year's awards were very competitive and I am pleased to be able to present the inaugural awards to these two individuals who exemplify professionalism in economic development."

Hazlewood's professional approach to developing the Blair/Washington County economy is the reason she won this award. Her driven and innovative personality has effectively brought economic growth to Nebraska.

According to Mesinger, an example of Hazlewood's drive for success was the Novozymes recruitment process. Novozymes was deciding between an Iowa and a Blair location to launch its newest project. Originally, Novozymes decided on Iowa, but Hazlewood refused to give up and began creatively enhancing Washington County's package. After all of her work, Novozymes announced its project would be located in Blair.

Novozymes new facility will produce enzymes for existing corn-based ethanol and later enzymes for cellulosic ethanol production. The project will result in the creation of 100 full-time jobs and an investment near \$100 million.

As Executive Director of Gateway Development, Hazlewood has helped bring six new projects to Gateway Development within the past 12 months. In addition to the Novozymes project, other announcements such as Barr Pharmacy, Cargill Office, Evonik, Green Gable Contracting and Maid-Rite Restaurant are projects that are expected to greatly enhance the Blair/Washington County's economy.

NEDA was originally established in 1972 with the purpose of supporting Nebraska's economic growth. NEDA's mission remains the same as today's 300 members utilize their expertise in continuing to build Nebraska's economy.

NEDA is able to accomplish its purpose by encouraging its members to further advance their knowledge, to building relationships between economic development professionals in Nebraska, and to provide a collaborative environment for its economic developers. Similar to Hazlewood, all of NEDA's members are committed to NEDA's mission to further Nebraska's economy.

For more information, contact:

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