



Ohio Economic Development Association
17 South High Street, Suite 200
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 800.632.7763 or 614.221.1900
Fax: 614-221-1989
Email: aeda@assnoffices.com

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Mr. J.C. Wallace, OEDA, (614) 221-1900 or (614) 545-8258



Nate Green, OEDA President Melissa Frank, Senator Ron Amstutz, Patrick Carano, J.C. Wallace and OEDA VP Jim Doult

THE OHIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION RECOGNISES OHIO'S OUTSTANDING LEGISLATORS

COLUMBUS, OH, MARCH 2, 2006: On **March 1, 2006** the Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) held its Annual Legislative Day in Columbus, Ohio. Over one hundred economic development professionals were present to recognize the members of the Ohio General Assembly who were instrumental in passing several of the most progressive economic development initiatives in the country last year.

~ MORE ~

The OEDA recognized State Senator Ron Amstutz (R-22nd) as the recipient of the annual OEDA Key Legislator Award for his exemplary leadership in support of economic development initiatives during his many years of public service in the Ohio State Senate and in the Ohio House of Representatives. Most recently, Senator Amstutz was a pivotal leader in the Ohio Senate in 2005 as the State enacted major tax reform. He was the primary sponsor of SB 1, the Senate's tax reform package. His role as Chairman of the Senate Ways and Means and Economic Development committee was crucial to the passage of the reform package.

Senator Amstutz commented, "I really appreciate this award, especially because your organization and its members make such a critical contribution to the quality of life in our communities throughout Ohio."

Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, Jon Husted (R-37th) was recognized as one of two 2006 Distinguished Legislators. Speaker Husted led the legislative effort to transform Ohio's economy by reforming Ohio's burdensome and

anti-competitive tax code. Additionally, he led the House in the passage of the lowest growth budget in more than forty years-an effort that allowed lawmakers to additionally control the growth of Medicaid, reduce the cost and size of government and enact substantive reforms for the future.

"It is a privilege to receive this honor today," Husted said. "Without a doubt, economic development is vital to the successes of our state. Together we reformed Ohio's tax code and together we will create new and better jobs for the people of Ohio."

State Representative Chris Redfern (D- 80th) also received the 2006 Distinguished Legislator Award. The OEDA recognized Representative Redfern for his work in advocating for economic development by championing fiscal restraint in state budgeting, and pushing for a more equitable tax code for Ohio's working families and small businesses. Redfern has also worked to protect tourism funding in the state budget and continues to advocate for protecting Lake Erie.

As Minority Leader, Representative Redfern advocated for Democratic support for the Third Frontier Program. He worked with Lt. Governor Bruce Johnson to expand the advisory board of the Third Frontier Program to include representatives from rural and Appalachian areas. Before his service as State Representative, Redfern was an Ottawa County Commissioner-the youngest in the State when his term began in 1993.

"We are very appreciative of the contributions of these three legislators in making Ohio and our communities competitive in the global economy," said Mr. Nate Green, Chair of the OEDA Legislative Committee.

The OEDA also recognized the efforts of the entire Ohio General Assembly at the Legislative Day event. "The passage of Issue One – the Jobs for Ohio Bond Issue, will have an extremely positive impact on the Ohio economy for years to come. Local infrastructure funding, financial support for the development of new industrial and business parks in the State and funding for the Third Frontier Initiative are all critical to the long-term economic growth of the State and Ohio communities," said J.C. Wallace, Executive Director of the OEDA. "Issue One passed because the citizens of Ohio care about jobs. The Ohio legislature and the Taft administration continue to demonstrate to our organization that they care about jobs, and we sincerely appreciate their efforts."

"Perhaps even more significant is the comprehensive Tax Reform initiative that Ohio legislators passed in 2005. Companies are already making new investments in facilities and equipment in response to these changes to Ohio's tax structure and

rates that will effect the future of thousands of jobs in Ohio. We want to make sure that our State legislators know that we sincerely appreciate their efforts."

At the Legislative Day event, the OEDA also presented the 2006 OEDA State Legislative Policy Agenda which is available on the OEDA website.

The Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) is a non-partisan membership organization representing over 375 economic development professionals and non-professionals interested in Ohio's economic development efforts. The OEDA works with the Ohio Department of Development in the development and management of Ohio's economic development programs and Team Ohio, a division of the OEDA, works with the Ohio Business Development Coalition and ODOD to provide a unified and comprehensive message to attract business, capital investment and jobs to Ohio. For more information about OEDA and TEAM OHIO, please contact Mr. J.C. Wallace.

-End-