



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
Joseph W. Freeman, Vice Chairman
Robert J. Ayers
Gerald L. Brewer
Danny B. Gordon
George T. Johnstone
William F. Snyder

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.

“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.”

###

Release Date – May 6, 2004

For additional information, contact:

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

AT THE CENTER OF PROGRESS
www.WytheIDA.org