



*A Pennsylvania Local Development District*

## PRESS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

### **Commissioner Donna Hartle Awarded at Northwest Commission's 2009 Annual Dinner**

The Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission celebrated 42 years of service to the region at the 2009 Annual Dinner held April 1, at Cross Creek Resort in Titusville. One hundred eighty-seven people attended the event. One of the awards given that evening was the 2008 Board Leadership Award, which was presented to Clarion County Commissioner Donna Hartle.

Denise McCloskey, Executive Director of the Northwest Commission, began, "The strength of the Northwest Commission's programs and services is a testament to the dedication, leadership, and hard work of a special group of volunteers. The Commission's Board of Directors all go above and beyond the call of duty and commit to countless hours to provide quality programs that help businesses and local governments thrive. This year, we had three nominees for Board Leadership: Mary Ann Yochim, Bob Spaulding, and Donna Hartle. This year's winner is described by the Northwest Commission's employees as engaged, passionate, responsive, and shows pride for the work of the Northwest Commission does."

Donna Hartle serves as the President of the Technology Advisory Group. She has a passion for and is determined to bring high speed broadband internet connectivity to the region. She understands that we need to update our services to attract businesses and entice prospective investors to our region. She is one of the original participants when Dr. Andrew Cohill of Design Nine Technologies came to the region, which first brought the broadband initiative to light.

Donna currently serves as the President of the Northwest Commission Board of Directors. As such, she is required to attend and run bi-monthly meetings throughout the year. She attends to the business at hand and is sure to address any topics or issues that concern any of the eight counties throughout the region. She is diplomatic and readily available to provide her John Hancock on checks, contracts and legal documents, or answer questions for employees.

As the Board President, she was instrumental in assisting with the procurement of the Northwest Commission's Clarion Outreach Office. She was readily available for phone conferences with the Executive Board and site visits to ensure the expansion of the Northwest Commission.

Other nominees for this award included Bob Spaulding, Director of Economic Development for Erie County, and Mary Ann Yochim, Manager of Government Affairs for National Fuel. The Commission also recognized three other awards at the Annual Dinner, these included: the city of Oil City as Local Government of the Year, Optical Filters located in Meadville as Business of the year, and the Penn-Northwest Development Corporation as Partner of the Year.



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Established in 1967, the Northwest Commission is a regional resource for business and economic development as well as community development and planning. The non-profit agency is composed of a team of skilled professionals dedicated to sustaining economic vitality and growth in the northwest Pennsylvania region by fostering local, state, and federal partnerships across public and private sector lines. The Northwest Commission provides programs such as business financing, government contracting, international marketing, grants, transportation, and technology assistance to eight counties in northwest Pennsylvania including: Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren.

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