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Local wins 2008 Pyramid Award

Each year since 1999 the United Coulee Region and the 7 Rivers Region has presented an award to an individual or organization whose actions and accomplishments have demonstrated the spirit of cooperation and collaboration within the region. This year, on October 9th, at the Alliance 2008; Recruiting & Retaining Talent is Everyone's Business Conference in La Crosse, that award was presented to Juneau County Economic Development Corporation's Executive Director Terry Whipple.

"We are pleased to recognize Terry for his unending commitment to economic development throughout the 7 Rivers region. He has been an exemplary model of attitude, values and demeanor required to assure true collaboration occurs. We are also pleased we were able to give Terry a proper venue to receive such an honor," said James Johnson, President, 7 Rivers Alliance.

Jan Gallagher, Director of the Small Business Development Center for UW-La Crosse stated, "Terry is to be recognized for founding the first very successful Inventor and Entrepreneurs Club (I & E) that has, in turn, provided a dynamic model for many communities. There are now many clubs in the 7 Rivers Region, each fostering the culture of entrepreneurship."

Past recipients of this award include John Medinger, former Mayor of La Crosse, Steve Doyle, La Crosse County Board Chairman, Brian Tippetts of Household Hazardous Waste, The La Crosse Tribune, and the Mississippi River Region Tourism Partnership among others.

Whipple said he was honored to receive the award and credited the Juneau County Economic Development Corporation (JCEDC) Board of Directors and the Juneau County

Board of Supervisors for allowing him the flexibility to creatively work within our region to address the challenges we face and help prepare us going into the 21st Century. Whipple said "I view and practice economic development as community development. You can't look at just one thing; you have to look at the whole picture, and we have so many talented people willing to work creatively together to take on the challenges we face and move forward to improve the quality of life for all our citizens, it really gives me a lot of satisfaction".

Bonnie Peterson, JCEDC President said Terry Whipple is well deserving of this award; "Terry goes above and beyond what is required of him and he puts his heart and soul into his work, we are very fortunate to have him". Peterson said when JCEDC was incorporated over 17 years ago by a small group of volunteers who were concerned about business development and other issues in the county it was a challenge because of the rural nature of the county and the lack of funding for the organization, but today, some of those same volunteers on the JCEDC Board of Directors, including herself, and with the steadfast support of the Juneau County Board of Supervisors, are able to continue to foster an environment for improving the economic well-being and quality of life for the citizens of our communities. JCEDC works towards creating and retaining jobs, supporting business development and startups, supporting and growing incomes and the tax base, and promoting Juneau County.

Juneau County is the 3rd fastest growing county within the state and has the 2nd fastest increase in property values. As demonstrated by the Department of Labor recently, Juneau County has bolted past half of the state's 72 counties regarding employment statistics.

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