

*For Immediate Release*

## **Wilmington Air Park Receives Excellence in Economic Development Award from International Economic Development Council**

October 9, 2013 – Wilmington, Ohio – The Wilmington Air Park received a Gold Excellence Award in Economic Development for “News from the Runway,” a year-long newspaper and electronic campaign. The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) award was recognized in the Newsletter/ Newspaper category for communities with populations less than 25,000.

The honor was presented at an awards ceremony on Tuesday, October 8, during the IEDC Annual Conference, which was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

“The Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize Wilmington Air Park as being one of the leading organizations in the industry for innovation, creativity and successful strategies,” said IEDC chair, Paul Krutko. “These awards are meant to honor the organizations and individuals who are dedicated to making a positive change in their communities. This organization uses creative solutions and inventive ideas, and offers other regions a wonderful example to learn and benefit from. The award represents an acknowledgment and appreciation for Wilmington Air Park’s dedication to continuous growth within itself, as well as improving the industry overall.”

The Wilmington Air Park is an Aviation and Logistics Business Park located in central Ohio. The Air Park features a fully-functional airport that can land many aircraft built today. The Park features over 3 million square feet of industrial, office and hangar space and is strategically located between Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton, Ohio.

In 2012, an extensive redevelopment initiative was launched to attract tenants to the Air Park. The Air Park also retained Chisano Marketing Group, an Ohio firm that specializes in economic development marketing communications. The firm developed and implemented a rebranding and marketing campaign for the Air Park. As part of the marketing program, it became apparent that it was critical to communicate at the local level the progress being made within the Park. “News from the Runway” was designed to educate the local community, both businesses and consumers, about the economic development progress taking place at the Air Park. This campaign has been instrumental in shaping the spirit of the local community.

In addition to the work of the Clinton County Port Authority, Clinton County was also showcased as a national model for economic disaster response and resilience at the conference. The Clinton County Regional Planning Commission and Energize Clinton County, represented by Executive Director Christian Schock and Co-Director Taylor Stuckert, were invited by the national organization of IEDC to present their 5 part strategy, which was highlighted with other best practice efforts on building local multipliers.

IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders. These awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

#### **About the International Economic Development Council**

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. When we succeed, our members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions. [www.iedconline.org](http://www.iedconline.org)

#### **About Wilmington Air Park**

Owned by the Clinton County Port Authority, the Wilmington Air Park compasses over 1,900 acres with a fully functioning airport, as well as three million square feet of office, warehouse and hanger space. Both runways, (9,000' and 10,701') at the Wilmington Air Park are CAT III capable, allowing full instrument approach for some of the largest aircraft made today. The Wilmington Air Park is home to airlines, aviation maintenance and repair operations, as well as UAV testing and research.

The Air Park provides flexibility in landing schedules, plentiful aprons, on-site aircraft maintenance, a Foreign Trade Zone Designation and a variety of economic incentive programs. The over 40 structures can accommodate businesses of nearly any size and can be used independently or together. The Air Park is located in Wilmington, Ohio, just 40 miles northeast of Cincinnati, Ohio and 35 miles southeast of Dayton, Ohio. [www.wilmingtonairpark.com](http://www.wilmingtonairpark.com)

#### **About the Clinton County Port Authority**

The Clinton County Port Authority (CCPA) was established in 2004 by the Clinton County Commissioners and is governed by an all-volunteer board of directors. The CCPA is a special purpose government formed to operate transportation infrastructure and lead economic development efforts. Authorized purposes for port authorities include activities that enhance foster, aid, provide and promote transportation, economic development, housing, recreation, education, governmental operations, culture and research.

In 2010, the Clinton County Port Authority gained ownership of 1,500 acres encompassing the Wilmington Air Park, with the assistance of the City of Wilmington, Clinton County and the State of Ohio. Subsequently, the CCPA purchased available adjacent land to bring the total land to 1,900 acres surrounding a two-runway, fully functioning airport.

*For executive interviews, success stories and additional media relations services, please contact Beth Huber, Clinton County Port Authority, via phone at 937-655-7040 or email at [bhuber@ccportauthority.com](mailto:bhuber@ccportauthority.com); Elise Hafenbrack, Chisano Marketing Group, via phone at 937-847-3743 or email at [eliseh@chisano.com](mailto:eliseh@chisano.com).*

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