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ULI Northern New Jersey



ULI-NNJ TO HOST THIRD ANNUAL LEADERSHIP IN LAND USE AWARDS

City of New Brunswick Shines, Claims 3 of 6 Awards

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J., Nov. 28, 2007 – The Northern New Jersey District Council of the Urban Land Institute (ULI-NNJ) will present the third annual **Leadership in Land Use Awards** Thursday Dec. 6, 2007 from 6 to 9 p.m., at The Heldrich Center in New Brunswick. This awards program recognizes leaders in both the public and private sectors who are in the forefront of creating a better future for New Jersey residents through excellence in real estate planning and development.

“ULI-NNJ is so proud to recognize all of this year’s honorees,” said ULI-NNJ Vice Chair Lawrence Jacobs. “This year it was a very difficult decision, but all of those selected demonstrate high standards in regard to responsible land use. The winners truly stand out among their peers for their accomplishments and we are happy to honor them for their dedication to smart growth.”

A committee of eight ULI-NNJ members chose the award winners from a pool of 15 nominations.

Many of the awards focus on New Brunswick, the fastest-growing urban center in the state, according to the U.S. Census from 2000.

“New Brunswick is a model city for the collaboration of public and private development that should be replicated around the state,” said Linda Morgan, chair of the ULI-NNJ Selection Committee.

The following award recipients will be honored at the banquet:

-Project of the Year: The John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development and Rockoff Hall University Apartments- Chosen as the unanimous winner and located in downtown New Brunswick, the Heldrich Center is a great example of mixed-use development. The center houses condominiums, the Heldrich Hotel, the Raritan River

Conference Center and offices for the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. The attached Rockoff Hall has apartments for upperclassmen at Rutgers University. The Heldrich Hotel boasts a workforce development program with notable results in employing local people, with 70 percent of all hotel employees being Middlesex County residents.

“The Heldrich Center serves as a perfect example of how to combine social services, economic development and fine design in one building, serving both the public and private interests and acting as a cornerstone of downtown redevelopment,” said Jacobs. “We chose the Heldrich Center for its strength as a design project and its replicability to other urban areas in the state.”

-Public Official of the Year: Jim Cahill, Mayor of New Brunswick- Mayor Cahill has served the city of New Brunswick as mayor for the past 16 years during which he has actively promoted smart growth, aesthetic design and regional transit initiatives.

“Mayor Cahill is an unsung hero because he is such a great advocate for transit design,” said Morgan. “His work to address traffic issues has made New Brunswick accessible for the residents, the university students, commuters and the business and cultural patrons. In the densest state in the country, more cities should look to Mayor Cahill as an example of a public official in sync with smart urban planning.”

-Educator of the Year: Anton Nelessen, Rutgers University- Professor Nelessen of the Urban Planning and Policy Development Graduate Department is being recognized for his many years of leadership in the field of design and planning. He serves as an excellent mentor to students in the urban planning profession at Rutgers. He is also the principal of A. Nelessen Associates, an urban planning firm located in Belle Mead, N.J. He has created development plans for cities worldwide including Cambridge, Mass; Atlanta, Ga; and Rotterdam, Holland.

“He is part of the neotraditional center of design and his work is unparalleled in New Jersey,” said Jacobs. “Students are so lucky to learn from such a wonderful teacher.”

This year, the committee chose to give out three special awards: two for infrastructure and one for building green.

-Special Recognition – Building Green: PNC Bank- PNC has more certified green buildings than any other company in the world and is the first U.S. bank to apply green building standards to all newly constructed or renovated retail branch offices. The company has the most LEEDS certified buildings in New Jersey, proving their dedication to sustainable growth and social responsibility.

-Special Recognition – Infrastructure: Port Imperial Intermodal Ferry Terminal- Located in Weehawken, this project is recognized for its unique public-private partnership arrangement and for excellence in marine engineering, architecture and design. The terminal serves as a gateway from New Jersey to the New York Ferry

Terminal at West 38th Street. An estimated 20,000 commuters pass through the terminal daily, helped by the Port Imperial stop on the Hudson-Bergen County Light Rail and the large parking structure adjacent to it. The building has two passenger levels, capacity for four ferries to dock simultaneously, retail space, restaurants and banks.

-Special Recognition – Infrastructure: New Jersey Department of Transportation-

The NJDOT is being acknowledged for its work in creating a statewide architectural esthetic in highway and bridge design. In one example of the overall program, the Southard Street Bridge in Trenton was rehabilitated to ease traffic congestion and facilitate economic development in the region. The bridge is emblematic of NJDOT's commitment to elegance and functionality in their transportation projects. The bridge dates back to 1921 and many of the design elements were maintained, including antique-style lighting and arched cutouts to mimic the original railing.

Last year's award winners included Rutgers University Professor David Listokin, Mayor Christian Bollwage of Elizabeth, Pier Village in Long Branch, The Willow School in Pepeak-Gladstone and B.A.S.F. Near-Zero Energy Home in Paterson.

Please RSVP by calling the (800) 321-5011 and using the ULI meeting code 8140-0806 no later than Dec. 3, 2007. Tickets to the event are \$150 which includes cocktails and a buffet.

About the Urban Land Institute

The Urban Land Institute is a non-profit education and research institute that is supported and directed by its members. Its mission is to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide. Established in 1936, the Institute today has over 34,000 members and associates representing the entire spectrum of the land use and development disciplines. It is comprised of developers, builders, property owners, investors, architects, public officials, planners, real estate brokers, appraisers, attorneys, engineers, financiers, academics, students and librarians.

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