

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THREE INDIVIDUALS HONORED
DURING RECENT NCEDA CONFERENCE

Donald Porter and Scott Millar receive 2010 Economic Developer of the Year Awards and Governor Jim Hunt presented with NCEDA President's Award

RALEIGH, NC – Overwhelming efforts by two of North Carolina's economic development leaders made it simply too difficult to select just one honoree for this year's North Carolina Economic Developers Association's (NCEDA) Economic Developer of the Year Award.

As a result, two winners were selected – Donald Porter, executive director of the Raeford-Hoke County Economic Development Commission, and Scott Millar, president of the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation – in recognition of their outstanding achievements in economic development over the past year.

“Each of these individuals has faced unique challenges in their efforts to promote economic development in their counties and throughout the state,” said Katherine Thomas, NCEDA president. “And yet, their work on behalf of our state can be felt by all North Carolinians.”

Donald Porter's achievements in business recruitment and expansion projects in rural Hoke County would be impressive regardless. But in the midst of a national economic recession, Porter seems to have accomplished the impossible. Recruitment of a \$100 million ethanol plant; the creation of 75 new jobs as part of bringing Alpha, Inc. to Hoke County; and an expansion project for Hoke Rubber Products to include 49 additional jobs – these statistics merely scratch the surface of the results from Porter's economic development vision and leadership over the past year.

Playing an integral role in one of North Carolina's most publicized economic development projects of the year, **Scott Millar** worked tirelessly to locate the Apple datacenter in Catawba County – resulting in 300 jobs when complete, a \$1 billion capital investment by Apple and 1,100 jobs as part of its construction. In addition to the Apple project, Millar also coordinated business recruitment and expansion projects with Fiserv, Ethan Allen, FedEx Ground, BSN Medical, Legacy Furniture and Von Drehle Corporation in 2009 alone.

Thomas also presented the rarely bestowed NCEDA President's Award to former Governor Jim Hunt, honoring his legacy as one of North Carolina's strongest supporters of economic development – during his time in office and beyond.

While Porter and Millar were recognized for their achievements over the past year, the NCEDA President's Award, presented to former **Governor Jim Hunt**, encapsulates a lifetime of dedication to economic development in North Carolina. Under Governor Hunt's leadership, North Carolina consistently ranked at the top of the nation in economic growth, job creation and capital investment, and was nationally recognized for its business climate. Ever mindful that establishing the future economic prowess of his state depended on the “new economy,” he established the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, the Microelectronics Center of North

Carolina, and the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. Since leaving office, Governor Hunt continues his promotion of North Carolina as a business friendly destination.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Photos of award ceremony and recipients are available upon request.

ABOUT NCEDA:

The North Carolina Economic Developers Association is the leading statewide association of professional economic developers and their allies in North Carolina. The nearly 600 members promote the state and its communities as places for new economic activity. They are on the front line of economic development in North Carolina. Based in Raleigh, NCEDA provides professional development, advocacy and information services for its members.

For more information, visit NCEDA's website, www.nceda.org.

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