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CBICC recognizes best of Centre County business community *PICCC's Cheryl Johnson named CCEDP Economic Development Champion*

STATE COLLEGE, PA, Dec. 13, 2018 – The **Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County (CBICC)** recognized the best of Centre County's business community at the **Fourth Annual CBICC Excellence Awards**. Sponsored by PSECU, the event was held Thursday, Dec. 13 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College.

"Fueled by a robust entrepreneurial spirit, Centre County business leaders across industry sectors are positively impacting the local economy and the quality of life of the collective community," said Vern Squier, CCE, PaCCE, President and CEO of the CBICC. "The annual awards dinner is an opportunity to not only honor the noteworthy achievements of a few, but to celebrate the contributions and the successes of all."

This year's dinner recognized the best of business in seven categories. From a field of 47 nominees, the winners are:

- Emerging Business of the Year – **Athlete Viewpoint**
- Small Business of the Year – **Rowland Creative**
- Technology Company of the Year – **Sensor Networks, Inc.**
- Young Professional of the Year – **Ashley Hardison, Penn State Hospitality Services**
- Corporate/Community Impact Award – **The Makery**
- Business Leader of the Year – **Cindy Pasquinelli, Strawberry Fields, Inc.**
- Ethical Business of the Year -- **Strawberry Fields/Good Day Cafe**

The Ethical Business Award was presented in partnership with Penn State University's Smeal College of Business, and was developed and selected by a student panel. Faculty and student representatives of Smeal presented the award.

At the dinner, the CBICC also honored the 2018 Chamber Champion and Centre County Economic Development Partnership (CCEDP) Economic Development Champion.

Joe Shulman, president of Hotel State College & Co. was named **CBICC Champion**, while **Cheryl Johnson, executive director, Private Industry Council of the Central Corridor**, was named the 2018 **CCEDP Economic Development Champion**.

In addition, CBICC Ambassadors, the goodwill arm of the Chamber, were recognized.

Seven Mountains Media radio personalities Jason Browne and Angela Steco served as co-emcees of the Excellence Awards Dinner.

Additional sponsors included: Graphics and Design; Ben Franklin Technology Partners; First National Bank; Restek Corporation; CPI Foundation; FirstEnergy; Miller, Kistler & Campbell; Galen Dreibelbis; Ameron Construction; Invent Penn State; Doing Better Business; WTAJ-TV; Pennsylvania Business Central; and Seven Mountains Creative.

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