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Lima among top in nation for economic development projects and investment

LIMA, OH — Allen County is a great place to do business and it has the national ranking to prove it.

Site Selection, a top corporate real estate economic development magazine, on Monday announced Lima tied for fourth in the nation in 2020 for economic development and investment among cities of similar size. Lima ranked second in the magazine's newly introduced Top Metros Per Capita rankings. The announcement of the 2020 Governor's Cup winners included Ohio's rank of top state per capita for capital investment activity.

"AEDG partnered with businesses and our regional economic development representatives to assist in eligible projects that totaled \$168,441,644 in fixed asset investments, with 3,534 jobs retained and 249 jobs created in Allen County," said Allen Economic Development Group President and CEO Dave Stratton.

Lima is categorized as a Tier 3 Metro, 50,000 to 200,000 residents, as the statistical area includes all of Allen County. It was ranked sixth in the 2019 Governor's Cup.

"Despite COVID we improved our ranking because of the size and scope of the projects completed last year," Stratton said. "That improvement is reflective of the strength and diversity of our companies throughout the county."

"This is a prime example of the strong commitment the business leaders have with our community and we are very thankful," Allen County Commissioner Cory Noonan said of the announcement. "Having a coordinated team of Allen Economic Development Group, JobsOhio, and Regional Growth Partnership, along with our local partners, brings an all-hands-on-deck approach to economic development."

Projects meeting one of three metrics qualified for the ranking: at least \$1 million in investment, the expansion of an existing facility of at least 20,000 square feet, or the creation of at least 20 new jobs. Lima registered eight such projects.

"Our location, our workforce, and the leadership at the county, city, and township levels make Lima/Allen County an attractive place to do business," Stratton said. "Recognition like this is appreciated because it sheds light on the work being done by many, many people."

The collaboration includes regional and state organizations.

"Despite the disruptions of 2020, Lima, Allen County, and all of Northwest Ohio stayed focused in putting the needs of businesses first while continuing to build a conducive climate for their success. And the results of those efforts show in the outstanding rankings in Site Selection magazine," said Dean Monske, president and CEO of the Regional Growth Partnership. "Our project manager, Chase Eikenbary, and the entire RGP team, are committed to assisting the Allen Economic Development Group in its continued efforts to grow the region."

Other communities in northwest Ohio received recognition in the micropolitan category (one or more adjacent counties that contain an urban core with 10,000 to 50,000 people) including Findlay, Tiffin, Fremont, Bucyrus and Defiance.

“This is a great region to do business and that is reflected by existing companies making investments to grow their operations as well as the attraction of new business,” Stratton said.

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About AEDG: The Allen Economic Development Group is a public/private partnership that was formed in 1993 as a facilitator for countywide economic development. Its mission is to create an environment for new business development, promote and nurture existing business and facilitate the creation of new jobs in Allen County.

About Site Selection magazine: The 66-year-old Atlanta-based magazine has awarded the Governor’s Cup annually since 1988, based on new and expanded corporate facilities as tracked by the proprietary Conway Projects Database. Site Selection, published by Conway Inc., is the senior publication in the corporate real estate and economic development fields and is the official publication of the Industrial Asset Management Council (IAMC, at www.iamc.org). Site Selection's yearly analyses are regarded by corporate real estate analysts as "the industry scoreboard." The magazine's circulation base consists of 48,000 subscribers, most of whom are involved in corporate site selection decisions at the CEO/President/COO level.