



For Immediate Release

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Regional Chamber Receives Top Economic Development Award for Business Attraction in Northeast Ohio

The Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber was honored Tuesday with the top award in the Business Attraction category at the Team Northeast Ohio's (NEO)/Inside Business magazine's 2009 Economic Development Impact Awards.

The event took place at the Embassy Suites in Independence, Ohio before a crowd of about 450.

The Chamber was recognized for its efforts to attract Republic Special Metals to the Mahoning Valley. Republic is building a \$64 million, state-of-the-art specialty steel production complex in North Jackson. The 205,000-square-foot advanced manufacturing facility will utilize the latest technology to produce high-strength metal products used in part by the aviation industry. The new plant is expected to create 60 jobs with an average wage of \$50,000 per year.

"Receiving this award is a real honor because it takes into account major business attraction projects from all of Northeast Ohio's 16 counties and its economic development groups," said Walter Good, the Regional Chamber's Vice President for Economic Development Business Retention and Expansion.

"My hat goes off to all of the nominated groups and great projects."

The Regional Chamber also was a finalist in the Business Retention category for its economic development work that resulted in General Motors deciding to invest \$350 million at its Lordstown Complex. As a result, production of the Chevrolet Cruze is slated to begin at the plant in 2010.

At the ceremony, former Congressman Ralph Regula was presented with the 2009 H. Peter Burg Regional Vision Award for his leadership in the arena of economic development.

This annual awards event recognizes organizations and companies that have made outstanding contributions in attracting, retaining and expanding businesses in Northeast Ohio. Team NEO is a private sector-led, regional economic development organization that encompasses Ashland, Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Richland, Stark, Summit, Trumbull and Wayne counties.