

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PASCO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PAST CHAIRMAN HONORED AS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Lutz, Florida—Pasco Economic Development Council, Inc.(PEDC) Past Chair Stewart Gibbons was recently selected by the Florida Economic Development Council as the Economic Development Volunteer of the Year for the Tampa Bay region.

PEDC submitted Gibbons's name as a nominee to the annual competition for the Richard McLaughlin Volunteer of the Year Award. "Gibbons's work on the PEDC board led directly to the transformational change underway in Pasco County," said John Hagen, Pasco Economic Development Council President/CEO. "As a result of his leadership and initiative, relationships between county officials and the business community have never been so strong. Everyone concerned with economic development owes him a big round of applause."

During his time as chairman, Gibbons led efforts which identified key issues affecting economic development in Pasco County. As a result, PEDC partnered with Pasco County in 2008 for an Advisory Services Panel from the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to evaluate economic development and related issues. The ULI panel recommended sweeping changes to the County's approach to economic development including addressing many long running growth management and development concerns. Today, the ULI report is a key underlying support document for major improvements currently being implemented in Pasco County and PEDC.

Gibbons has been involved in economic development activities since 1983 in Houston, Texas, Washington DC and Pasco County. He joined the PEDC Board of Directors in 2003 and served as chairman from 2007 until 2009.

The award is named in honor of Richard L. McLaughlin, who firmly believed in the significance of volunteer contributions to the achievement of economic development goals for the state. In honor of his contributions, one outstanding volunteer is recognized annually in each of the eight FEDC districts.

PEDC is a non-profit organization that promotes countywide economic development. Created in 1987 by a group of dedicated business and community leaders, it continues to be a strong partnership funded by corporate and public investors and focused on the economic vitality of Pasco County.

For more information about PEDC, contact:

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