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Press Release

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Texas, Nebraska Repeat as Winners of Site Selection Magazine's Governor's Cup Awards

Top Metro and Micropolitan Areas for Corporate Facility Investment Also Named

Atlanta, March 5, 2018: Texas and Nebraska have won the 2017 Site Selection Governor's Cups. This is the fifth year Site Selection recognizes the state with the most qualifying new and expanded facilities per capita, which Nebraska claims for its capital investment activity in 2017. Texas wins for having the most qualified projects of any state.

The 64-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.

The Lone Star State's 594-project finish for 2017 is down from its 642-project, first place finish last year (the state attracted 701 the year before). Ohio is second with 467 (down from 515), followed by Illinois (419), Georgia (281) and North Carolina (274), which along with No. 6 California and No. 7 Kentucky were the only states in Top 10 to show higher project totals than the year before. In the per capita (per 1 million population) contest, Nebraska's tally of 110 projects was nine higher than the year before. Second-place Kentucky had a higher tally too, up by 17 projects to 248. In addition to placing No. 2 in the traditional rankings, Ohio placed third in the per capita race, followed by Illinois, Georgia and Iowa.

“The Governor’s Cups recognize not only the winning governors, but their entire economic development teams, and by extension, the many professionals throughout their states who work every day to attract new investment and retain and grow existing businesses,” says Mark Arend, editor in chief of Site Selection. “Governors Abbott of Texas and Ricketts of Nebraska credit their states’ workforces as their competitive edge and are taking steps to ensure their supply of labor continues to meet the requirements of investing businesses now and in the future.”

Site Selection’s Conway Projects Database focuses on new corporate facility projects with significant impact, including headquarters, manufacturing plants, R&D operations and logistics sites, among others. It does not track retail and government projects, or schools and hospitals. New facilities and expansions included in the analyses must meet at least one of three criteria: (a) involve a capital investment of at least US\$1 million, (b) create at least 20 new jobs or (c) add at least 20,000 sq. ft. (1,858 sq. m.) of new floor area.

The March 2018 issue of Site Selection also features state rankings by region. For 2017, the regional leaders according to the traditional, total new projects measure are Pennsylvania (Northeast); Ohio (East North Central); Missouri (West North Central); Georgia (South Atlantic); Texas (South Central); Arizona (Mountain); and California (Pacific). Per capita regional leaders are Pennsylvania (Northeast); Ohio (East North Central); Nebraska (West North Central); Georgia (South Atlantic); Kentucky (South Central); Nevada (Mountain) and California (Pacific).

Top Metros and Micros

The Top Metros for new and expanded corporate facilities in 2017 were also repeat winners, across three population tiers. Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, Illinois-Indiana-Wisconsin, was No. 1 among metro areas with populations over 1 million; Omaha-Council Bluffs, Nebraska-Iowa, was No. 1 among areas with populations between 200,000 and 1 million. And Sioux City, Iowa-Nebraska-South Dakota was No. 1 among areas with populations between 50,000 and 200,000. Full lists of the Top 10 Metros in each population category appear below.

“Seventy-seven distinct city neighborhoods in various phases of realizing their potential, 275 municipalities and seven counties comprising the new Chicago Regional Growth Corporation, 10 viable candidate sites for Amazon HQ2 or any other corporate campus, impressive transit-oriented, mixed-use redevelopment and — perhaps best of all — housing stock that people can actually afford,” says Adam Bruns, managing editor of Site Selection. “Put all of that together and you see why companies and the people who work for them continue to find Chicagoland a place with options and a place to thrive.”

In the magazine's ranking of Top Micropolitans — cities of 10,000 to 50,000 people which cover at least one county — Findlay, Ohio, was tops among the nation's 575 micropolitan areas, followed by Batavia, New York; Wooster, Ohio; Shelby, North Carolina; and a tie between Cullman, Alabama, and Richmond-Berea, Kentucky. Ohio once again led as the state with most Top Micropolitans (18).

Big Muddy Cup

Union City, Tennessee-Kentucky, is the recipient of the **Big Muddy Cup**, recognizing the top metro area along the entire length of the Mississippi River for private-sector facility projects per capita.

Ranking behind Union City were last year's repeat winner Burlington, Iowa-Illinois; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Dubuque, Iowa; Clinton, Iowa, Natchez, Mississippi-Louisiana; and New Orleans-Metairie, Louisiana. A Top 10 list of per capita leaders and a list of the top areas in total projects are included below.

All of the above stories are posted at the magazine's award-winning website, www.siteselection.com.

Site Selection magazine, published by Conway Inc., delivers expansion planning information to 48,000 executives of fast-growing firms. The senior publication in the development field, Site Selection is also available via [Site Selection Online](#). Headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., Conway, publisher of Site Selection magazine, the Conway Analytics Report and a family of online industry newsletters, in 2017 was recognized as Georgia International Small Business of the Year by the Atlanta Business Chronicle. Conway has been a trusted advisor to corporations, government economic development and investment promotion agencies around the world since 1954. Conway owns and manages Conway Events, organizer of worldwide FDI events; Berlin-based FDI advisory firm Conway Advisory; and New York-based Conway PR & Marketing, a leading PR and lead-generation firm. Conway also manages the Industrial Asset Management Council.

(Note: All circulation information is publisher's own data unless otherwise specified).

**Overall Top 10 States 2017 Governor's Cup
Projects**

Rank	State	Count
1	Texas	594
2	Ohio	467
3	Illinois	419
4	Georgia	281
5	North Carolina	274
6	California	262
7	Kentucky	248
8	Pennsylvania	185
9	Virginia	164
10	Indiana	162

**Overall Top 10 States 2017 Governor's Cup Per
Capita**

Rank	State	Count
1	Nebraska	110
2	Kentucky	248
3	Ohio	467
4	Illinois	419
5	Georgia	281
6	Iowa	86
7	North Carolina	274
8	Louisiana	115
9	South Carolina	119
10	Indiana	162

**Top U.S. Micropolitans
New and Expanded Facilities in 2017**

Rank	Micropolitan	Totals
1	Findlay, Ohio	21
2	Batavia, N.Y.	17
3	Wooster, Ohio	15
4	Shelby, N.C.	10
T5	Cullman, Ala.	9
T5	Richmond-Berea, Ky.	9
T7	Ashland, Ohio	8
T7	Manitowoc, Wis.	8
9	Jefferson, Ga.	7
T10	Cedartown, Ga.	6
T10	Angola, Ind.	6
T10	Bardstown, Ky.	6
T10	Danville, Ky.	6
T10	Frankfort, Ky.	6
T10	Tupelo, Miss.	6
T10	Kinston, N.C.	6

**Top 10 Metro Areas: Tier One New and Expanded
Facilities in 2017 (Metros with population over 1
million)**

Rank	Metro	Totals
1	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.	402
2	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, Texas	196
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth-Arlington, Texas	192
4	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, Ga.	131
5	New York-Newark-Jersey City, N.Y.-N.Y.-Pa.	128
6	Cincinnati, Ohio-Ky.-Ind.	111
7	Columbus, Ohio	99
8	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va	82
9	Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson, Ind.	73
10	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, Calif.	72

T10 Tiffin, Ohio 6

Top 10 Metro Areas: Tier Two New and Expanded Facilities in 2017 (Metros with population between 200,000 and 1 million)

Rank	Metro	Count
1	Omaha-Council Bluffs, Neb.-Iowa	42
2	Greensboro-High Point, N.C.	41
T3	Toledo, Ohio	31
T3	Charleston-N. Charleston, S.C.	31
T3	Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin, S.C.	31
6	Baton Rouge, La.	30
7	Akron, Ohio	29
8	Dayton, Ohio	28
9	Lincoln, Neb.	27
10	Des Moines-W. Des Moines, Iowa	23

Top 10 Metro Areas: Tier Three New and Expanded Facilities in 2017 (Metros with population less than 200,000)

Rank	Metro	Count
1	Sioux City, Iowa-Neb.-S.D.	26
T2	Bowling Green, Ky.	13
T2	Owensboro, Ky.	13
T2	Gainesville, Ga.	13
5	Florence-Muscle Shoals, Ala.	12
6	Sheboygan, Wis.	11
7	Decatur, Ala.	9
8	Joplin, Mo.	8
T9	Midland, Texas	7
T9	Lewiston-Auburn, Maine	7
T9	St. Joseph, Mo.-Kan.	7
T9	Saginaw, Mich.	7

Top 10 Mississippi River Corridor Metros, Per Capita Corporate Facility Projects

Metro/Micropolitan Area	Population	Projects
1. Union City, Tenn.-Ky.	37,206	4
2. Burlington, Iowa-Ill.	47,171	5
3. Baton Rouge, La.	825,478	78
4. Dubuque, Iowa	96,370	7
5. Clinton, Iowa	48,051	3
6. Natchez, Miss.-La.	52,203	3
7. New Orleans-Metairie, La.	1,251,849	68
8. Dyersburg, Tenn.	37,935	2
9. Paducah, Ky.-Ill.	97,820	5
10. St. Cloud, Minn.	192,418	10

Top 10 Mississippi River Corridor Metros Total Corporate Facility Projects

Metro	Projects
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1.	St. Louis, Mo.	120
2.	Baton Rouge, La.	78
3.	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minn.-Wis.	72
4.	New Orleans-Metairie, La.	68
5.	Memphis, Tenn.-Miss.-Ark.	52
6.	Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, Iowa-Ill.	16
7.	St. Cloud, Minn.	10
8.	Dubuque, Iowa	7
T9	Burlington, Iowa-Ill.	5
T9	Paducah, Ky.-Ill.	5