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CenterState CEO Celebrates 2017's Economic Champions!

289 Companies Recognized for Creating Jobs, Growth, Expansion, Capital Investments and New Business Openings

CenterState CEO Community Visionary Award Presented to Jubilee Homes of Syracuse, Inc.

SYRACUSE, NY – The **Economic Champions Luncheon**, presented by Fust Charles Chambers LLP, brought together a record crowd of more than 775 CenterState CEO members, community leaders and guests to the Nicholas J. Pirro Convention Center at Oncenter. During the event, CenterState CEO recognized **289** companies as 2017 Economic Champions for their collective hiring of more than **5,000** employees, nearly **2 million square-feet of expansions**, and **\$975 million in capital investments**. Companies were nominated as Economic Champions for their accomplishments throughout the year by peers, employees and staff.

"Through this event we celebrate the companies that are at the forefront of our region's growth and economic progress," said CenterState CEO President Robert Simpson. "With each capital investment, new hire, expansion or new business, Central New York's economy is strengthened. Their achievements – no matter how big or small – echoes throughout the regional economy and impacts us all."

The luncheon also featured remarks from Quentin Hillsman, Head Coach, Syracuse University Women's Basketball. Hillsman shared his motivational insight on leadership, team building and community engagement. Since taking over the Syracuse Women's Basketball program in 2006, Hillsman has guided the Orange to unprecedented heights, becoming the all-time winningest coach in school history and transforming the program into a national championship contender. The keynote speaker sponsor is AmeriCU Credit Union.

"Congratulations to CenterState CEO's 2017 Economic Champions, and thank you for the growth, diversity and opportunities you all have inspired across this region," said Hillsman. "We look forward to celebrating not only your accomplishments of the past year, but also the example that has been and continues to be set for our communities that teamwork is paramount to economic growth, and that the leadership capabilities of one can truly impact the lives of many in a limitless and positive way."



The **CenterState CEO Community Visionary Award**, sponsored by Wegmans Food and Pharmacy, was presented to Jubilee Homes of Syracuse, Inc., for its more than 30 years of service to the community. This award is given to a person, company or association that embodies the vision of economic opportunity and has had a significant impact on community prosperity.

"Jubilee Homes of Syracuse is a catalyst for achieving the long-term revitalization of Syracuse's southwest side," said Evelyn Carter, director of community relations at Wegmans. "What truly makes them so deserving of this award is their vision and ongoing commitment to improving lives of others through affordable housing, business growth and development, and youth programming and employment opportunities. Wegmans is proud to support CenterState CEO's Community Visionary Award, and to recognize Jubilee Homes for all their efforts."

CenterState CEO Thanks the 2017 Economic Champions Luncheon Sponsors

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About CenterState CEO

CenterState CEO is an independent and forward thinking economic development strategist, business leadership organization and chamber of commerce; dedicated to the success of its members and the prosperity of the region. We serve as an advocate and resource for smart business, catalyze and facilitate regional growth, and promote community prosperity through results-driven partnerships, planning and problem-solving. <u>www.centerstateceo.com</u>

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2017 Economic Champions

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