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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

For the Second Year in a Row, Akron Metro Area Ranks Second in Country for
Economic Development Success

Site Selection magazine announced Monday that for the second year in a row, the Akron metro area ranks second in a list detailing the top metro areas in the U.S. for new and expanded corporate facilities in 2008. The ranking is based on the number of projects clinched in a year.

The Akron metro area placed second in the country among metro areas with populations of 200,000 to one million with 39 projects finished in 2008, which was only two fewer projects than the winner – Dayton, Ohio. The Akron metro area increased their number of projects by 10 from 2007. Chamber President and CEO Dan Colantone said collaboration between the private and public sector led to many companies reaffirming Akron commitments.

The State of Ohio again fared well in *Site Selection's* analysis of corporate location projects with significant impact, winning the 2008 Governor's Cup Award for the state with the most new and expanded facilities. Ohio placed first with 503 projects, after receiving the 2007 Governor's Cup with 399 significant corporate location projects, claiming the 2006 Cup with 431 projects and coming in second the previous two years. Texas came in second this year with 497 projects, followed by Michigan (296), Pennsylvania (290), and North Carolina (245).

Conway Data publishes *Site Selection*, the oldest publication in the corporate real estate and economic development field. The magazine's New Plant database, which was used to gather the ranking results, focuses on new corporate location projects with significant impact. *Site Selection's* yearly analyses are regarded by corporate real estate analysts to be "the industry scoreboard."

For more information about the Governor's Cup Award, visit www.siteselection.com.

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The mission of the Greater Akron Chamber is to drive economic development and prosperity for the people of the Greater Akron Region.

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