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## **IEDC Awards Rep Visclosky with Economic Development Leadership Award**

**WASHINGTON, DC (March 19, 2012)** - [The International Economic Development Council](#) (IEDC), the world's largest independent non-profit membership and research organization devoted exclusively to the field of economic development, awarded U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky, Indiana, D-1st, the 2011 Congressional Leadership in Economic Development Award

The recognition was bestowed Monday, March 19, during the organization's [2012 Federal Economic Development Forum](#) in Washington, D.C.

Joseph B. Hornett, senior vice president, treasurer and COO of the Purdue Research Foundation, nominated Visclosky for the award for the congressman's work and contributions to building and expanding the economy in Northwest Indiana.

"I am honored to receive this prestigious award. It is important to recognize all the constituencies in Northwest Indiana who are partners in diversifying our economy, including Purdue and the many cities and economic development organizations whose presence in our area contribute so very much," Visclosky said. "While the steel industry in Northwest Indiana has been and continues to be a strong economic engine, we recognize the importance of expanding our economy to other sectors such as the environment, life sciences, information technology, security, transportation, energy and many other areas."

The development of Purdue Research Park of Northwest Indiana was initiated by Visclosky in 2002 when he approached Purdue with an idea to build and operate a high-tech incubator that would expand Purdue's research and technology expertise in the area. Visclosky secured \$6.9 million in funding to construct the 48,000-square-foot Purdue Technology Center in Merrillville, Ind., on 386 acres owned by the Purdue Research Foundation. In 2010, Visclosky attended a 12,000-square-foot expansion dedication at the center, for which he secured an additional \$2.28 million.

Today the site has 33 new and expanding companies in eight buildings that support 719 jobs. The average annual wage for jobs in the park is \$63,000, which is 65 percent greater than the average annual salary in Indiana. The incubator was the second Purdue Research Park established in Indiana. The Purdue Research Park of West Lafayette opened in 1961.

"The Purdue Research Park of Northwest Indiana is just one example of how Pete has successfully created long-term, high-tech economic development initiatives for the people he represents in Congress," Hornett said. "The successful launch of the Northwest Indiana park led to the opening of the two other Purdue Research Park incubators in Indianapolis and New Albany.

"Pete's commitment to the area goes beyond the support he has given to Purdue, as he has provided support for multiple economic projects."

Visclosky has provided leadership for several ongoing economic development projects including:

- The Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation. The center partners with companies to provide student experiential learning opportunities and economic savings for partnering companies in the steel industry and other sectors.
- Partnerships with Argonne National Lab, the Purdue-Calumet Energy Efficiency and Water Institute Research Facility and others to conduct research and provide educational programs in water resources.
- An Ivy Tech Community College program to establish a Gary campus that allows residents to study logistics, distribution and transportation resources to pursue careers in those sectors.
- Indiana University Northwest Health Research Institute to purchase equipment and develop the institute at Indiana University Northwest.

"This award recognizes an individual at the federal level who has gone above and beyond administrating a federal economic development program," said Jeff A. Finkle, President and CEO of the International Economic Development Council. "Rep. Visclosky was selected from a group of several outstanding nominees for this award, and the judges chose him because of his vast contributions to build and strengthen the economy in Northwest Indiana."

Visclosky represents the 1st Congressional District of Indiana, which includes Lake, Porter, Newton, Jasper and Benton counties. He is a member of the Appropriations Committee and serves as ranking member of its Energy & Water Development Subcommittee, where he has worked to boost investments in new energy technologies that will help reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil. He also sits on the Defense Subcommittee, the Financial Services Subcommittee and is the vice chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus.

#### **About the International Economic Development Council**

The [International Economic Development Council \(IEDC\)](http://www.iedconline.org) is the world's largest independent non-profit membership and research organization devoted exclusively to the field of economic development. IEDC helps economic development professionals create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities and improve the quality of life in their regions. Serving more than 4,400 members, IEDC provides a diverse range of services including conferences, professional development and certification, publications, research, advisory services, and legislative tracking. Visit [www.iedconline.org](http://www.iedconline.org).

#### **About Purdue Research Foundation**

Purdue Research Foundation (<http://www.prf.org>) is a private, nonprofit foundation created to advance the mission of Purdue University. The Purdue Research Foundation oversees the Purdue Research Park, which is the largest university-affiliated business incubator in the country. In addition to the Purdue Research Park of West Lafayette, the foundation has established technology parks in other locations around Indiana including Indianapolis, Merrillville and New Albany.