



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 20, 2011

Contact: Suzie Lusk
Phone: 615-767-6898

**TEDC NAMES CLEVELAND-BRADLEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VICE
PRESIDENT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER**

(NASHVILLE, Tenn.) –

The Tennessee Economic Development Council (TEDC) has recognized Douglas Berry, Vice President of Economic Development, Cleveland-Bradley County Chamber, as the 2011 Fred Harris Professional of the Year, for his significant economic development achievements in the state of Tennessee.

Berry's successes in 2010 were indicative of his dedication and drive to draw business and industry to Cleveland-Bradley County. Berry was intimately involved in the \$147 million project to move Whirlpool's existing operation in Cleveland to a new site in the same city. He also played a crucial role in the acquisition of a one million square-foot, \$48 million distribution and fulfillment facility for Amazon. When complete, the distribution center will employ 246 people to distribute an assortment of products throughout the entire Southeast.

When Olin Chlor Alkali Products required a new facility in order to streamline production and eliminate caustic production process, Berry worked with the Cleveland plant to retain their presence in Bradley County. Olin ultimately chose to rebuild their current facility, saving 320 direct jobs and impacting close to 1,000 jobs that might have been lost. Berry also continues to work with Arch

Chemical and Mars Chocolate North America to upgrade and expand their existing facilities in the county, with an estimated \$55 million in capital investment. In total, Berry's successes in 2010 alone involved more than \$410 million in new capital investment, 2,170 retained jobs and 296 new jobs.

Berry continues to serve as the primary contact on the Wacker Chemie AG project, first announced in 2009. This ongoing project is expected to bring a total of \$1.5 billion in capital investment and 650 new jobs. As a result of Bradley County's success in attracting new industry, County officials are in the preliminary stages of a new, 343 acre public industrial park.

"Doug's 'down home approach' allows him to recruit industry and do business in a tough climate with a high sense of ethics and honesty," said Mike George, Vice President of Business Development for Blaine Construction Corporation. "Over the years that I have known Doug and worked with him on projects that he has recruited, I have never heard an owner speak of him in a negative manner," said George, "but I have heard on more than one occasion, 'you know, that Doug Berry does what he says and follows through on his commitments. This industry needs more like him.'"

Berry has 26 years of experience in a range of capacities in economic development and private industry. He began his career with the Tennessee Technology Corridor Development Authority in 1985. Since then, he has served as President of the Loudon County Industrial Committee, Director of the City of Knoxville's Department of Development, Senior Vice President for private firm Hodge Engineering and then joined Blue Ridge Development in Knoxville. In 2009, Berry joined the Cleveland-Bradley County Chamber of Commerce as Vice President of Economic Development.

"I am proud to work for continued economic growth in my community," said Berry. "I am truly honored to receive this award from the TEDC."

TEDC is the statewide professional organization for people involved in economic development. The TEDC Professional of the Year Award was established in 1996, with Fred H. Harris being the first recipient. In 2004, the award was renamed in Mr. Harris' honor. Recipients of the Fred

H. Harris award must be nominated by their peers and selected by a committee of TEDC past presidents from the field of nominees. The awards ceremony was conducted as part of the TEDC Annual Fall Conference held this year in Memphis, TN.

###