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VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS HONOR VETERAN PROFESSIONAL

Newport News – The Virginia Economic Developers Association (VEDA) presented Don “Robin” Sullenberger, former CEO of the Shenandoah Valley Partnership, with the 2013 Cardinal Award at the VEDA Fall Conference last month in Newport News.

“Robin Sullenberger’s name is synonymous with economic development in the Shenandoah Valley,” said Deborah Flippo (Draper Aden Associates) in her nomination of Sullenberger. Recently retired after serving as the CEO of the Shenandoah Valley Partnership, he led the regional economic development organization in marketing twelve jurisdictions along western Virginia’s I-81 Corridor. During his career, Robin served as a Board Member of the Council for Rural Virginia, the Shenandoah Valley Workforce Investment Board, the Highland County Board of Supervisors, and the Shenandoah Valley Small Business Development Center. Robin was also tapped to participate on the Governor’s Higher Education Commission, the Virginia Workforce Council, and the Virginia Broadband Roundtable. He was instrumental in attracting SRI International’s new Center for Advanced Drug Research in the Innovation Village at Rockingham - one of the Commonwealth’s biggest announcements in the last decade. In March 2013, Virginia Business magazine named Robin one of the “50 Most Influential Virginians.”

In a second nomination of Sullenberger, David Kleppinger (Allegheny Highlands EDC) noted, “Robin Sullenberger has brought a high degree of credibility to the economic development profession both as an economic development deal closer but more importantly, as a respected leader in the state. He has the ear of legislators because they respect him. There aren’t many people I’ve worked with in my 40 year career who I admire more than him.

The Cardinal Award is the most prestigious award bestowed by VEDA to deserving members. The award recognizes leadership in the field of economic development, outstanding professional accomplishments, and exceptional service to the organization. Nominations are open in early summer each year to VEDA past or current members. The nominator must be a member of the association.

VEDA is a member-based professional association committed to providing training and development; networking opportunities; and serving as the voice of the economic development community, creating economic opportunity and prosperity for the Commonwealth of Virginia. VEDA’s membership is comprised of more than 550 economic development professionals and related industry professionals from across the Commonwealth of Virginia. For more information about VEDA, visit the Website at www.GoVEDA.org.

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