



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS HONOR VETERAN PROFESSIONAL

Roanoke – The Virginia Economic Developers Association (VEDA) presented Matthew James, Peninsula Council for Workforce Development and Delegate, Virginia General Assembly with the 2012 Cardinal Award at the VEDA Fall Conference last month in Roanoke.

Matthew James has practiced economic development in several roles over the past 26 years. He began in the City of Chesapeake as a business development representative and rapidly rose through prominent leadership positions in Hampton Roads. In 1999, James matriculated into workforce development and in 2005 was responsible for establishing the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development as a separate and distinct entity. In 2010 James was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates to serve as a representative for the citizens of the 80th district. Of significant note was his appointment to the Governor's Economic Development and Jobs Creation Commission. The appointment of a junior legislator from the opposing political party to a Commission charged with providing guidance to the Governor on one of his most important campaign issues is a testament to the fact that James is a respected leader in the economic development community and a valued asset within the legislature for his expertise.

"Matthew James is not only a voice for economic and workforce development within Hampton Roads, but also across the Commonwealth. He is a sought after and eager speaker who is always willing to assist other economic development groups in elevating their programs. Throughout his career in public service Matthew has proven to uphold the highest standards of the profession in regards to both personal character and professional leadership," said Patrick Small in his nomination of James.

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 525 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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