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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC State of the Region Event Honors Community Leaders

(Columbus – April 2, 2015) Community leaders who made extraordinary efforts in contributing to the welfare of Central Ohioans were honored by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) at the State of the Region Luncheon held April 2, 2015 at the Hilton Columbus Downtown.

Yaromir Steiner, CEO of Steiner + Associates and chair of the collaborative insight2050 initiative, was the recipient of the William C. Habig Collaborative Achievement award. The William C. Habig Collaborative Achievement award is annually presented to an individual or individuals who have achieved an effective effort or innovative collaborative in Central Ohio.

Steiner was instrumental in bringing the private sector to the table and in successfully leading the diverse 30 member steering committee through a 9 month project time frame. insight2050 is a public-private partnership that provides objective data and analysis to local governments, developers, and business leaders about the impact of the region's population growth of the next 30+ years that is expected to be dramatically different from the past. The project results allow our communities to better understand the impact of future land use policies on key issues such as transportation, land consumption, government budgets, environmental or air quality.

Marsha Grigsby was recognized with the William H. Anderson Excellence in Public Service Award. The William H. Anderson Award recognizes a current or past board member who exemplifies outstanding leadership, a vision for the community and the region, and commitment to MORPC. William H. Anderson, a longtime MORPC board member, was the epitome of a civic volunteer who is remembered for his zeal with which he championed MORPC's mission and goals. Marsha Grigsby has been a member of MORPC's board since 2010.

Mayor Michael B. Coleman is the recipient of the Regional Leadership Award. First introduced in 1997, the Regional Leadership Award recognizes individuals in a 15-county region (Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Hocking, Knox, Licking, Logan, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Perry, Pickaway, Ross and Union counties) who make extraordinary efforts to ensure the future viability of the region's communities. The Regional Leadership Award is derived from the Commission's continuing dedication to addressing issues that transcend community boundaries and to stimulating visionary thinking.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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Mayor Michael B. Coleman was elected as Columbus' 52nd mayor in 1999. He is serving his fourth term as mayor of the 15th largest city in the nation, the largest city in the state of Ohio, and the fastest growing city in the Midwest. He is the longest-serving mayor in Columbus history, and the longest-serving incumbent African-American mayor among major U.S. cities.

He has a proven record of accomplishment in balancing budgets, reforming government, and attracting business to the city and expanding small and emerging companies in Columbus. Mayor Coleman continues to play a major role in helping Columbus become one of the largest cities in the nation to maintain an AAA credit rating and a stable financial outlook from all three major credit rating agencies.

Mayor Coleman's work has resulted in creating more than 40,000 jobs and obtaining \$7 billion in private investments to Columbus. His drive for Columbus' economic prosperity and growth reverberates throughout the state and the Midwest. As a result, Columbus leads the state of Ohio in job creation, business development, and company expansions.

Mayor Coleman also provided regional leadership locally, statewide and in Washington, DC to secure funding for infrastructure for the Rickenbacker Intermodal Yard including the award of a highly competitive federal TIGER grant funding.

His latest endeavor to benefit the region is the creation of the JET task force. Comprised of leaders from the business, economic development and transportation sectors, the task force will focus on how best to redefine our airport as an economic hub and the center of transportation for the region.

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MORPC is a voluntary association of local governments in Central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing.