

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 16, 2021

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PA Route 6 Alliance Celebrates Accomplishments and “Do 6” Awards

Recognizing outstanding persons, groups, and communities along PA Route 6!

September 16, 2021 — Community leaders, groups, business owners, county commissioners, and state legislators joined the PA Route 6 Alliance virtually on Thursday, September 16, 2021, to celebrate the organization’s 2021 Annual Meeting & “Do 6” Awards.

The event, initially planned as a 2-day in-person Educational Summit & Annual Meeting in Kane, PA, was transitioned to a Virtual Annual Meeting & “Do 6” Awards Celebration due to rising concerns over public health and safety related to COVID-19. The in-person Educational Summit, which was to feature workshops and speakers on community development, creative branding, volunteer engagement, bike tourism, and more, will be rescheduled to a later date so participants can still visit the Heritage Community of Kane and its surrounding region.

Alliance Executive Director, Candace Hillyard states, “We were looking forward to coming together in-person in Kane, and we truly appreciate all of the hard work already put in by the Kane community in preparation, especially by Kane Area Development Center Executive Director Kate Kennedy, Mayor Brandy Schimp, and Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau Executive Director Linda Devlin. However, the health and safety of the communities across our region is our first priority, so we are thankful to have the capability to still connect virtually to share our organization’s accomplishments and celebrate the people and projects that help further our mission of supporting the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor.”

Awards were presented for 2020 and 2021 in the categories of *Heritage Partnership, Heritage Tourism, Heritage Leadership, Artisan of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement*. A combined 2020–21 award was presented for the *Heritage Community of the Year*. Each award recipient also received special recognition from one or more state legislators in the form of a citation, certificate, or letter of congratulations from the U.S. House of Representatives, PA House of Representatives, Senate, and/or County Commissioners Office.

The **Heritage Partnership Award** is given to a person, group, or project that has demonstrated excellence in historic and cultural preservation, interpretation, and/or education through cross-corridor thinking and interagency cooperation. **The 2020 Heritage Partnership Award was presented to the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, represented by Executive Director, Cain Chamberlin**, in recognition of many years of heritage preservation and promotion within their 4-county region, especially through their 2020 partnership on the PA Route 6 Façade Program in the Endless Mountains that resulted in over \$250k being invested in Bradford and Wyoming Counties. **The 2021 Heritage Partnership Award was presented to the Historic McKean County Collectible Pin Trail, represented by Linda Devlin, Executive Director of the Allegheny National Visitors Bureau**, which led the project that brought together ten McKean County businesses and organizations to develop a “Pocket Map” guiding visitors to each heritage site to collect unique location-specific pins.

The **Heritage Tourism Award** is presented to the organizers of a project or event that furthers economic and tourism development while still respecting the heritage and cultural resources of the corridor. **The 2020 Heritage Tourism Award was presented to Hotel Anthracite, represented by Director of Hotel Operations and Sales, Chad Coble**, in recognition of the transformation of the property, Carbondale's centerpiece hotel, into a stunning tribute to the Heritage Community's coal mining and railroad heritage that draws thousands of visitors to the community each year while also inspiring community pride and further community development. **The 2021 Heritage Tourism Award was presented to the Lumber Heritage Trail, represented by Holly Komonczi, Executive Director of the Lumber Heritage Region**, which developed the unique wayfinding trail to guide visitors to the top lumber heritage attractions throughout its 15-county Heritage Area, including sites within the counties it shares with the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor: Warren, McKean, Potter, and Tioga Counties.

The **Heritage Leadership Award** is presented to a person, business, or organization for meaningful contributions and/or partnerships that have resulted in the enrichment of our communities through landscape initiatives or historic preservation. **The 2020 Heritage Leadership Award was presented to Union City Borough, represented by Borough Manager, Cindy Wells**, in recognition of the borough's 3-year partnership with Union City Pride, Union City Downtown Development, Union City Community Foundation, and Preservation Erie on community planning and historic preservation of their downtown, including their National Historic District. **The 2021 Heritage Leadership Award was presented to Sean Strub, Mayor of Milford**, owner of Hotel Fauchère, and Executive Director of Sero Project, in recognition of his significant impact on the community of Milford through his role as mayor and champion of the community's story.

The **Artisan of the Year Award** is presented to an Artisan Trail member that exemplifies the goals of the PA Route 6 Artisan Trail program with special attention to regional thinking and cooperation while promoting the arts along the corridor. **The 2020 Artisan of the Year Award was presented to the Wayne County Arts Alliance, represented by Executive Director Janet Gaglione**, in recognition of the organizations many years of dedication to the arts and artists of Wayne County through professional, educational, and recreational activities, programming, services, and spaces, such as The Great Wall of Honesdale and WCAA Main Street Gallery. **The 2021 Artisan of the Year Award was presented to Riverside Brewing Company, represented by owners Deanna and Jason Howles**, in recognition of its transformation of the historic site of the Victorian-era Riverside: The Inn at Cambridge Springs with their historic barn-turned-brewery featuring maple-inspired products and tastes, an outdoor patio bar, and the historic Riverside Inn gardens.

The **Heritage Community of the Year Award** is presented to one designated Heritage Community that is embracing their Heritage Tourism WorkPlan and implementing worthwhile projects that show impact and results in their community. **The 2020-2021 Heritage Community of the Year Award was presented to Mansfield, represented by Dawn Hull of the Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Kathy Barrett**, in recognition of their continued dedication to the PA Heritage Communities Program and recent community development and heritage preservation efforts, including collaboration with Mansfield University of community connection and events, expansion of green spaces and trails, and restoration of their historic Gate House Building to house the history of the "First Night Football Game" ever played.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** is presented to a person or agency who exemplifies outstanding leadership and advances the PA Route 6 Alliance mission through heritage development. **The 2020**

Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Linda Devlin, Executive Director of the Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau, in recognition of her 20-plus years of dedication to the heritage tourism development of the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor through leadership roles in the Pennsylvania Route 6 Tourist Association, Tourism Promotion Advisory Council, Marketing Committee, and the PA Route 6 Alliance Board of Directors. **The 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to Emily Beck, who retired in June of 2021 from her position as Director of Tourism Development for VisitErie**, in recognition of her 20-plus years of service to the tourism promotion of the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor through leadership roles in the Pennsylvania Route 6 Tourist Association, Tourism Promotion Advisory Council, Bike Tourism Committee, and PA Route 6 Alliance Board of Directors.

For more detailed information on the “Do 6” Award Recipients, visit <https://paroute6.com/2020-2021-do-6-awards> or contact the Alliance at info@paroute6.com or 814-435-7706.

The PA Route 6 Alliance, a 501(c3) corporation, was established in 2003 to manage the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor and to implement branding and marketing plans, community development programs and other planning efforts along the corridor. The Alliance includes representatives from all 11 counties, 9 convention and visitor bureaus, 4 heritage areas, local development districts, local business owners, Chambers of Commerce, and other interested parties along the corridor. The PA Route 6 Heritage Communities program is a program of PA Route 6 Alliance and PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor funded by the PA Heritage Area Program under the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. --End--