



Focus Central Pennsylvania Receives \$25,000 Grant from Norfolk Southern [New Columbia, PA] – Focus Central Pennsylvania has been awarded \$25,000 in grant funding by Norfolk Southern Corporation to support its mission, to attract investment that cultivates economic growth in Central Pennsylvania. In recognition of this grant announcement, shown in the photo at a recent ribbon cutting for a large rail served project in Central PA are Amanda Barber, E.I.T, Industrial Development Manager – Harrisburg West, Norfolk Southern Corporation; Jennifer Wakeman, Executive Director, DRIVE and Chair of Focus Central PA; Lauren Bryson, Executive Director, Focus Central PA; and Rob Jones, Director Industrial Development, Norfolk Southern Corporation.

The ribbon cutting was for the new \$47 million state of the art feed mill for Country View Family Farms in New Columbia. Norfolk Southern will handle unit trains of corn for the mill and to celebrate Norfolk Southern's Reading heritage unit brought in a train and provided rides around the new 8,250- loop track. The new feed mill will be served by the North Shore Railroad's Union County Industrial Railroad. The mill will supply farms within a 50-mile radius with enough feed for 975,000 hogs, using 450,000 bushels of corn per week. It has silo capacity of 600,000 bushels. The facility will work on 24-hour schedule five days a week and has created 50 permanent jobs.

The Focus Central PA regional partners include Mifflin, Center, Snyder, Union, Northumberland, Montour, and Columbia counties. The grant funds will be used to organize and hold a Central Pennsylvania V.I.P. Industrial Site Selection Tour & Forum: Forging the Future: Industrial Investment Opportunities in Central PA. The forum will promote the industrial opportunities in the Central PA region to targeted prospects including site selection executives through an in-person event and site tour of properties and the community. The goals of this forum are to: Attract interest and build relationships with key site selection executives; Educate key prospects on the industrial and community investment opportunities in Central PA on areas including: Workforce, Available Properties – Boots on the Ground Site Tours, Community Assets and Amenities, and Overall Business Climate – Target Industries; Improve and Refine a winning marketing and sales process for the region through Forum planning, implementation and after action; and Leverage knowledge and insights from attendees to improve product and promotion efforts of the region to attract high quality investment WINS.

“This funding will have an immediate impact on our mission to effectively promote Central PA to attract quality investments to the region that create economic opportunities,” said Lauren Bryson, Executive Director of Focus Central PA]. “We're grateful to Norfolk Southern for investing in our communities, for they work they do to support a strong economy and for supporting our mission.” The grant is part of two community programs launched by Norfolk Southern in 2023: the Safety-First Grant Program, which

seeks to advance safety organizations and initiatives, and the Thriving Communities Grant Program, which aims to promote economic opportunity, support vibrant community life, and provide equal access to basic necessities. Award recipients are selected annually from across the railroad's 22-state network.

About Focus Central Pennsylvania: Focus Central Pennsylvania is part of a committed team of economic development leaders from Centre, Mifflin, Snyder, Union, Northumberland, Montour, and Columbia counties that proactively market the region as a choice location for quality companies to invest and grow their businesses.

About Norfolk Southern Since 1827, Norfolk Southern Corporation (NYSE: NSC) and its predecessor companies have safely moved the goods and materials that drive the U.S. economy. Today, it operates a customer-centric and operations-driven freight transportation network. Committed to furthering sustainability, Norfolk Southern helps its customers avoid approximately 15 million tons of yearly carbon emissions by shipping via rail. Its dedicated team members deliver more than 7 million carloads annually, from agriculture to consumer goods, and is the largest rail shipper of auto products and metals in North America. Norfolk Southern also has the most extensive intermodal network in the eastern U.S., serving a majority of the country's population and manufacturing base, with connections to every major container port on the Atlantic coast as well as the Gulf of Mexico and Great Lakes. Learn more by visiting www.NorfolkSouthern.com.

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