For Immediate Release



December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

# PPL POWERED ECONOMIC INVESTMENT PARTNERS FORUM HELD TO ADVANCE SMART ECONOMIC GROWTH TO EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

# PPL POWERED ECONOMIC INVESTMENT PARTNERS FORUM

Site Selection: Industry Needs & Trends



Jason Hickey President & CEO Hickey & Associates Pennsylvania's Key Investment Advantages



Aaron Pitts Chief Commercial Officer BusinessPA

#### Powering & Empowering Communities PPL – the utility of the future – now.

Pennsylvania's Industrial Real Estate Competitiveness & Forecasts



Heather Kreiger, CCIM Regional Research Director Lee & Associates of Eastern Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's Industrial Real Estate Inventory & Opportunity



Christine Martin President PPL Electric Utilities



Jason Hunt Manager, Business & Economic Development PPL Electric Utilities



Senior Project Manager



Danville, PA – Focus Central Pennsylvania with generous support from PPL Foundation organized and held a *PPL POWERED ECONOMIC INVESTMENT PARTNERS FORUM* on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> in Danville, Pennsylvania. This Forum was part of the PPL Foundation funded initiative to engage partners and community leaders to raise awareness, knowledge and share details about industrial opportunities in Central Pennsylvania so together partners can effectively promote and support promotion of the region to attract

sustainable, quality investments for strong communities.

Over 90 professional leaders that have a vested interest in successful economic growth in Central PA gained from the forum insight from investment decision makers about trends and industry needs; details on Pennsylvania's key advantages for business growth and the marketing efforts to promote them; **the importance of power in economic growth and how PPL Electric Utilities is building the utility of the future** – **now**; an understanding of Pennsylvania's industrial real estate landscape, trends and how Central PA

sites can be competitive; and learned about tools to support their role in advancing smart economic growth in Central PA.

Several expert speakers presented during the Forum to include: Jason Hickey, President & CEO, Hickey & Associates that presented information on the site selection landscape and what the current industry needs and trends are for business attraction investment WINs; <u>Aaron Pitts</u>, Chief Commercial Officer, Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) that shared Pennsylvania's key comparative advantages for "investment" projects and the work being done to attract new businesses to Pennsylvania and supports the growth of existing companies, foster proactive and efficient engagement with corporate and industry stakeholders to position the Commonwealth as a premier business destination; <u>Christine M. Martin</u>, President, PPL Electric Utilities covered how the company is building a world-class transmission and distribution network and making it easy to do business with them; Jason Hunt, Manager, Business & Economic Development, PPL Electric Utilities shared the vision and initiatives underway to support economic development in the PPL Electric Utilities service territory; <u>Heather</u> <u>Kreiger</u>, CCIM, Regional Research Director, Lee & Associates of Eastern PA that revealed data on Pennsylvania's industrial real estate landscape, trends, and the soon to be released Central PA RE market report; and <u>Nick Long</u>, Sr. Project Manager, CEA Market Lead, LIVIC Civil that demonstrated ways to quickly assess site competitiveness and suitability to support economic growth projects.

"Focus Central PA is grateful for PPL Foundation's support of smart economic growth in Central PA. The work to support thriving communities is the work of many and PPL Foundation's support provides the resources necessary to engage, collaborate and communicate as partners to accomplish important things for our communities." said Lauren Bryson, Executive Director, Focus Central PA.

## **About Focus Central PA**

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 the PPL Foundation

The PPL Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization formed to support community initiatives in the areas served by PPL Corporation's utilities. Through strategic partnerships, the PPL Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that are engaged in innovative and groundbreaking work to create vibrant, sustainable communities; advance diversity, equity, and inclusion; and support children's success from cradle to career in both Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. Learn more at pplcares.com.