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## **The Scranton Plan Named as Top Ten U.S. Economic Developer**

**SCRANTON, PA, May 1, 2008**— The Scranton Plan, a program of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, will be honored as a Top Ten Local Economic Development Group in the May 2008 issue of Site Selection magazine.

Four objective categories were the basis for choosing the Top Ten Groups- new jobs, new jobs per 10,000 residents, new investment amount and new investment amount per 10,000 residents. Key projects completed by the Scranton Plan in 2007 include major distribution facilities for Sears, McLane Company, Lowe's, and Circuit City. These projects have generated an investment of more than \$235 million in local real estate and created and retained 2,229 jobs.

In the selection process, subjective criteria were also taken into account including innovative programs, leadership, and community collaboration. The Scranton Plan in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce spearheaded cooperative initiatives such as Rediscover Scranton- a program that helps to strengthen Scranton's quality of life and business assets. Skills in Scranton, another partnership of the Chamber, helped to address a critical need for electronics technicians, health care skills, and financial and information technology positions by working with local employers, colleges, and community and government leaders.

"Our success as a community today is built on the investments we made in years past. This recognition is an indication that our efforts are paying off." said Chamber President, Austin Burke. "Our success tomorrow will likewise grow from investments we make in our community, our labor force and ourselves today. This award recognizes the quality working relationships among all entities- business, government and education- in Lackawanna County."

The Chamber's economic development programs- The Scranton Plan, LIFE & SLIBCO- have won numerous awards in the past for their efforts. These awards include being named the top economic development program in the nation by CUED in 2000 and additional honors from

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PEDA and the Small Business Association. Chamber Vice President, Andy Skrip, has also been named a top economic developer in the Commonwealth by PEDA.

The Scranton Plan is the industrial marketing arm of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce. The mission of The Scranton Plan is to create and retain jobs for Lackawanna County. With the help of two Chamber divisions, the Scranton Lackawanna Industrial Building Company (SLIBCO) and the Lackawanna Industrial Fund Enterprises (LIFE), the Scranton Plan is a driving force behind job creation and retention for Lackawanna County. The Scranton Plan partners with relocating and expanding businesses, serving as their community development partner throughout their entire site selection process. To learn more visit [www.scrantonplan.com](http://www.scrantonplan.com).

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