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Columbia Economic Development Corporation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 25, 2017

Columbia Economic Development Corporation Conducts Annual Meeting

HUDSON, NY – There was a sense of renewed energy and excitement at Kozel's the morning of April 25th as CEDC's President/CEO F. Michael Tucker and CEDC Board Chair Tony Jones were joined by more than 130 business men and women for CEDC's Annual Member Meeting.

Opening remarks were provided by Board Chair Tony Jones, Columbia County Board of Supervisors Chairman Matt Murell, Empire State Development Deputy Regional District Director Arnie Will, and Congressman John Faso's District Director Ryan McAllister.

During the business portion of the meeting, CEDC members received an annual Financial Report and voted to make minor Bylaw amendments. In addition, the following Board Members were elected:

Board of Directors – Election to a 3 year term expiring May 2, 2019

James Calvin – NY Association of Convenience Stores

Dr. Maria Suttmeier – Hudson City School District

Board of Directors – Election to a 3 year term expiring May 2, 2020

Tony Jones – Roe Jan Publishing

Coilin Stair – Stair Galleries and Restoration

Robert Sherwood – Retired Kinderhook Bank

Richard Bianchi – Shallo, Galluscio, & Bianchi CPAs PC

Keynote speaker Hugh A. Johnson, Chairman of Hugh Johnson Advisors LLC, presented his 2017-2018 Economic forecast and provided business leaders insight on how to manage their businesses, run their investment portfolios and save for the future. Hugh Johnson's work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *BusinessWeek*, and other leading newspapers and

periodicals around the world. He has been a regular guest on CNBC, was a special guest on *Wall Street Week* with Louis Ruykeyser, and has appeared as a regular guest on Bloomberg Television. Hugh has also appeared on *NBC Nightly News*, *ABC World News Tonight*, *CBS Evening News*, *The News Hour*, and *Nightly Business Report*. Johnson is the Chairman and Chief Investment Officer of Hugh Johnson Advisors LLC, an Albany based investment and wealth management firm.

CEDC President F. Michael Tucker reported on the organization's economic development successes from the previous year and presented its strategic economic development plans for 2017. To download a copy of CEDC's Annual Report, visit www.columbiaedc.com.

In his closing remarks, Jones pointed out the importance of CEDC membership, stating that membership in CEDC brings tangible benefits to the businesses and individuals who join. But is also communicates support for the overall mission of determining our best development options and working to achieve them in the most cost-effective ways. He concluded his remarks by thanking those businesses who have joined and inviting those who haven't to consider CEDC membership.

Tucker concluded the meeting by stating that it's been an ambitious and productive year for CEDC. It began with the creation of the Strategic Plan, which has provided new focus and direction; new partnerships and engagement. The Strategic Plan has allowed CEDC to purposely align the organization's resources and efforts with the four pillars of greatest importance to Columbia County's future success: Entrepreneurship and Innovation; Infrastructure; Quality of Life and Sustainability; and Workforce and Education. Tucker thanked CEDC staff, board and membership for their commitment to the economic prosperity of the County.

The Columbia Economic Development Corporation Annual Member Meeting was sponsored by Harney & Sons, Saturn Industries and Sneeringer, Monahan, Provost and Redgrave Title Agency.

Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), the leading economic development organization in Columbia County, is committed to strengthening the county's tax base through economic development and job creation while maintaining the quality of life so desired by the people who live and work here. For more information about CEDC programs and services, visit www.columbiaedc.com or call 518.828.4718.

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