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**Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County announces nominees for Pete Hegener Leadership Award to be presented at 5th Annual Leadership Dinner**

Port St. Lucie, FL – The Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County (EDC) is pleased to announce nominees for the prestigious Pete Hegener Leadership Award. The award is presented to a dedicated organization or business leader who has significantly contributed to St. Lucie County’s economy and quality of life. The winner will be recognized at the EDC’s 5th Annual Leadership Dinner, sponsored by Florida Power & Light, on April 27 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Harbour Ridge Yacht & Country Club.

Nominees include:

Alto "Bud" Adams, Jr., Adams Ranch; Terissa Aronson, St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce; Mike Brown, Sr., Harbor Community Bank; Judith Cruz, Treasure Coast Food Bank; Wayne Gent, St. Lucie Public Schools; Robert Gluckman, Treasure Coast Urgent & Family Care; Harbor Community Bank Senior Executives Mike Brown Sr., Hal Roberts, Randy Ezell and Mike Brown Jr.; Kathryn Hensley, School Board of St. Lucie County; Leslie Kristof, Keiser University; Kathy Post, Post Insurance & Financial; Tammy Roncaglione, CenterState Bank; and Maddie Williams, Treasure Coast Builders Association.

“We were very impressed with the number of nominations and the caliber of the nominees,” said Pete Tesch, president of the EDC. “Each person’s accomplishments and positive impact on the community are exemplary and make the final selection an extremely difficult one.”

For information on tickets to the 2017 Leadership Dinner, contact Candy Marlow at 772.336.6252 or visit www.youredc.com.

Participation in this event will help achieve funding goals to support the EDC’s strategic plan to create a more prosperous St. Lucie County and advance its important job creation initiative.

**About the award**

The recipient of the Pete Hegener Leadership Award exemplifies the qualities of a visionary, a trusted role model and leader whose inspiration and achievements impact the quality of job creation, economic vitality and small business growth.

Pete Hegener, the man whose actions inspired this award, was a founding member and integral partner of the EDC, served on its Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Pete was a pillar of the St. Lucie County community, having played a key role in the development of western Port St. Lucie and what is now Tradition. Friends and colleagues described him as “honest, visionary, and caring.” He passed away in March 2012, but his legacy is fondly remembered and recognized through this award.

**About the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County**

The EDC is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting economic vitality in St. Lucie County through the attraction, retention and expansion of businesses in the community. The EDC works in partnership with local governments and the private sector to advance its goals of creating more and better-paying jobs for residents, broadening the tax base and improving St. Lucie County’s economic quality of life. Contact the EDC at 772.336.6250, contact@youredc.com or www.youredc.com.