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Four Iowa Projects Receive 2015 Innovation Awards from the National Association of Development Organizations

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Association of Development Organizations awards four Iowa projects for innovation in community and economic development.

NADO is a Washington, DC-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The association's Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities. Award-winning projects will be showcased during NADO's 2015 Annual Training Conference, held October 24 - 27 in New Orleans, LA.

"For nearly 30 years, NADO's Innovation Award has provided regional development organizations the opportunity to be recognized for their hard work and dedication to promoting economic development in rural and small metropolitan communities across the country. Building on the unique strengths and challenges of each region and community, award recipients continue to promote sustainable economic growth not only now, but for many years to come. And I am pleased to announce that this year over 100 regional development organizations were selected to receive NADO's 2015 Innovation Award," said NADO President Terry Bobrowski, Executive Director of the East Tennessee Development District in Alcoa, TN.

The City of Norwalk received a 2015 Innovation Award for their assistance in developing *Produce Innovations*. For more information about this award-winning project, contact Marketa Oliver, City Manager at marketao@norwalk.iowa.gov.

East Central Iowa Council of Governments received a 2015 Innovation Award for their development of the *Region 10 Multi-Disciplinary Safety Team*. For more information about the award-winning project, contact Mary Rump, Transportation and Regional Development Director at mary.rump@ecicog.org.

MIDAS Council of Governments received a 2015 Innovation Award for their conservation project, *Emerald Ash Borer – Community Tree Management Plans*. For more information about the award-winning project, contact the Clifford Weldon, Executive Director at cweldon@midascog.net.

Region XII Council of Governments received a 2015 Innovation Award for their work in developing the *Western Iowa Advantage Employer-Educator Summit*. For more information about this award-winning project, contact Rick Hunsaker, Executive Director at rhunsaker@region12cog.org

To see a complete list of the 2015 NADO Innovation Awards: <http://www.nado.org/nado-announces-2015-innovation-award-winners/>