



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**March 18, 2016**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ROCKVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. TEAMS VISIT 50+ COMPANIES DURING 11th ANNUAL "BUSINESS APPRECIATION WEEK"**

**Rockville, MD** – During the week of March 7-11, the Rockville, MD Mayor and Council joined Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) board members and staff, Rockville Chamber of Commerce board members, City staff and County and State economic development partners to visit with the leadership of more than 50 diverse Rockville companies representing more than 2,100 employees as part of the 11th annual Rockville "Business Appreciation Week."

During a wrap-up breakfast held March 18 at the Glenview Mansion in Rockville, local business leaders mingled with many of the ambassadors who visited companies throughout the week as well as local elected officials, including City Councilmember Virginia Onley. "Reaching out to businesses and letting them know that they're appreciated and that we want to foster business in the city is important," said Rockville Councilmember Virginia Onley.

There are over 9,600 businesses, ranging from small family-owned establishments to major corporations, located in Rockville. These businesses employ over 72,500 people. The greater Rockville business area includes nearly 24 million square feet of commercial office space, including office, industrial, flex and retail space, which is approximately 16 percent of the total commercial space in Montgomery County. The Rockville business sector contributes \$16.4 million, or about 40 percent, of the property taxes collected in Rockville.

Some of the industries visited by the 31 Rockville "ambassadors" included the Life Sciences, Technology, Financial, Professional Services, Insurance, Retail/Restaurant, Construction and non-profit sectors. The businesses ranged from businesses founded 108 years ago to startups created last year. Of those businesses responding to REDI's survey last week, 90 percent said a Rockville location enhances their business; 62 percent reported hiring at least one employee in the past year and 71 percent reported an increase in revenue. Of those surveyed, many companies cited the region's quality workforce, easy access to I-270, the ICC and Metro, and Rockville's outstanding quality of life as some of the top reasons why they continue to choose Rockville for their business.

“The great news is that, of the firms we visited, over 45% plan to expand their offices, and nearly 80% plan to hire additional staff during 2016,” said Laurie Boyer, Executive Director of Rockville Economic Development. She stated that one of the biggest challenges for local firms is getting the word out about their product or service, and REDI can help with that through social media, blog postings, and e-newsletters.

To learn more about Rockville Economic Development, Inc., visit [www.RockvilleREDI.org](http://www.RockvilleREDI.org). To coordinate a visit with REDI officials throughout the year, contact 301-315-8096 or visit [www.RockvilleREDI.org](http://www.RockvilleREDI.org).

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***About Rockville Economic Development, Inc.***

*Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) is a public-private partnership formed in 1997 by the City of Rockville, Maryland to strengthen and broaden the city's economic base through business entrepreneurship, expansion, retention, and recruitment programs.*

*REDI offers guidance and support to help businesses at all stages of growth launch, locate and expand in Rockville. For more information, contact 301-315-8096 or visit [www.RockvilleREDI.org](http://www.RockvilleREDI.org).*