

March 13, 2007

EDITORS: The following information is for immediate release. If you have any questions, please contact Marybeth DiVincenzo of the Chester County Economic Development Council, at 610 458-5700, extension 228.

**New Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ)
is the subject of talk for breakfast briefing
of Chester County Economic Development Council**
Event takes place on Friday, March 23, 2007

EXTON _ The Chester County Economic Development Council is hosting a breakfast briefing on the new Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ) on Friday, March 23, 2007.

A **KIZ** is a statewide program designed to foster and sustain innovation and create entrepreneurial opportunities for small emerging companies within a discrete area or zone. The Chester County KIZ, which was recently certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, will be operated by the CCEDC in partnership with Penn State-Great Valley, Drexel University, Ben Franklin Technology Partners, Pennsylvania Bio, Eastern Technology Council, MVM & Associates, Kutztown University, Trammell Crow, Trinity Capital and Liberty Property Trust. The KIZ will gather and align resources from educational institutions, private businesses, business support organizations, commercial lending institutions, venture capital networks and foundations.

Some of the benefits of a KIZ program are:

- Eligibility to sell tax credits for growth capital.
- Access to funding and resources that support technology transfer and commercialization.
- Opportunities to share expertise in identified industry clusters.
- Participate in mentoring and internship opportunities through partnering companies/organizations.
- Ability to establish productive relationships that will help the younger companies grow and become successful.
- Opportunities to be matched with companies with similar areas of expertise.

Breakfast and registration begins at 7:45 a.m. with the program concluding at 9:30 a.m. The event takes place at the Economic Development Council at 737 Constitution Drive, Exton. Shire Pharmaceuticals is sponsoring the breakfast.

The cost is \$15 for members of the Chester County Economic Development Council and \$25 for non-members. To register, please contact Kathleen Nader at 610-458-5700 ext. 210 or knader@cceconomicdevelopment.com.

The Chester County Economic Development Council is a private, non-profit economic development organization that has been nurturing economic growth in Chester County and the surrounding region for more than 40 years. The Council's portfolio of business growth services includes: low-interest financing, small business lending, workforce training, retention and expansion, customized international business assistance, land and building site selection, brownfields consultation and remediation, urban redevelopment, and agricultural economic development. The Council also offers state-of-the art conference and training facilities at its brand new facility in Eagleview. For more information, see www.cceconomicdevelopment.com.