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

Chester County Economic Development Council names Erika M. Crawford as manager of KIZ program

Exton _ The Chester County Economic Development Council has named Erika M. Crawford as manager of the organization's Keystone Innovation Zone program.

Crawford, who lives in Burnham, worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry as deputy director of the Office of Policy, Planning and Development for the past three years. She also worked in the same department as an employment security specialist and a training and staff development specialist.

As KIZ Manager Crawford will administer all project initiatives and work with the KIZ board members and partners and represent the KIZ at all functions.

KIZ is a Pennsylvania government program. KIZs create 'knowledge neighborhoods' close to colleges, universities and research institutions that focus talent and resources in clusters, transforming communities into technology and business incubators, according to a government release.

The educational partners for the Chester County KIZ are Penn State University – Great Valley, Drexel University, Kutztown University and West Chester University. The designated industries are life sciences, biotech and information technology.

Crawford is a graduate of Clarion University of Pennsylvania and has a master of public administration from Old Dominion University.

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.