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## Seven New Projects Net Kilgore the 2015 Community Economic Development Award

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The Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC) announced Kilgore as one of the recipients of its annual Community Economic Development Awards (CEDA) for 2015. The awards were presented at a special awards luncheon at the TEDC's Annual Conference at the Westin Galleria Hotel in Dallas, Texas.

KEDC staff turned numerous prospects, more and more of them developed internally, into seven deals worth \$17.86 million of investment between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2015, retaining 539 jobs and creating 99. Only three were related to the energy sector. The types of projects were divided into two new recruitments and five expansions.

The Community Economic Development Awards program recognizes exceptional contributions of TEDC member cities toward the economic vitality of their communities and the state of Texas through creativity, leadership, and partnership in the achievement of business retention, business recruitment and community improvement. The CEDA committee received applications from 30 member communities. Nominees were then judged on five criteria: innovativeness, transferability, community commitment and leverage, measured objectives, and secondary benefits.

Communities nominated included: Category I (*population less than 5,000*) – Lorena and Morgan's Point. Category II (*population 5,001 to 15,000*) – Addison, Everman, Hillsboro, Ingleside, Kilgore and Mercedes. Category III (*population 15,001 to 40,000*) – Brownwood, Converse, Farmers Branch, Kerrville, La Porte, Little Elm, Prosper and Weatherford. Category

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IV (*population 40,001 to 100,000*) – Allen, Conroe, Edinburg, Flower Mound, Longview, Victoria and Waller. *Category V (population 100,001 and Above)* – Brownsville, Frisco, Greenspoint District (Houston), Lubbock, Plano, Round Rock and San Antonio.

The CEDA recipients in the five population categories are:

Category I (<5,000 population)	Lorena
Category II (5,001 - 15,000)	Kilgore
Category III (15,001 - 40,000)	Kerrville
Category IV (40,001 - 100,000)	Waller
Category V (100,001+)	Plano

“Our Community Economic Development Award is one of the ways in which our organization honors the excellent work done by our communities, their leaders, and their economic development professionals,” noted Mike Rosa, 2015 Chair of the Texas Economic Development Council. “Each community nominated achieved excellence in economic development and substantially improved the economic base of their respective regions. The recipient communities in each population category were recognized for extraordinary accomplishments in meeting the criteria set forth in the nomination process.”

“Kilgore EDC believes in a strategic approach that involves persistence and consistency,” said immediate past President Ty Sharp. “The companies represented in this award are all advanced industries that will impact our economy greatly, and we are honored they chose Kilgore.”

Sharp was the president of KEDC during the award year. Pat Nault is the current president.

TEDC provides information, education and legislative services to its members to foster the expansion of existing businesses, the location of new firms and the development of strategies that promote a positive business climate in Texas. With more than 850 members, the TEDC is now the largest state economic development association in the nation.