

Delaware

E C O N O M I C D E V E L O P M E N T O F F I C E



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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE

Delaware Honors Excellence in Tourism

More than 200 people attend 2008 Governor's Tourism Summit in Wilmington

Dover, Del. (April 17, 2008) – The best of the First State's tourism industry were recognized today during the 2008 Governor's Tourism Summit, held at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington. Delaware Economic Development Office Director Judy McKinney-Cherry and Tourism Director Tim Morgan presented nine Governor's Tourism Awards. More than 200 tourism industry professionals attended the Summit.

The Governor's Tourism Awards acknowledge individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to Delaware's tourism industry. Delaware attracts more than 8.1 million visitors to state each year.

"I am pleased to celebrate those who have maintained and strengthened Delaware's reputation as a premier tourism destination," said Governor Ruth Ann Minner. "Tourism in Delaware bolsters local economies and communities and enhances the quality of life not only for our visitors but for all Delawareans."

According to Global Insight, Inc., the total economic impact of the tourism industry in Delaware was \$1.80 billion in 2006. Core Tourism is the 5th largest sector employer in the state with 30,200 direct full-time equivalency jobs.

Award winners were selected by a panel of judges, representing tourism organizations nationwide: Janene Charbeneau, Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance; Richard Gilbert, Maryland Office of Tourism Development; and, Bruce Poster, Southwest Planning and Marketing in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This year's recipients are:

Roy Klein Hall of Fame: Individual Achievement

Kevin Fleming, photographer

Hall Of Fame: Annual Event

St. Anthony's Italian Festival

Travel and Tourism Person of the Year

Carolyn Grubb, Hotel du Pont

Volunteer of the Year

Dr. Gary D. Wray, Fort Miles Historical Association

Best Itinerary

2007 Delmarva Birding Weekend
Delmarva Low Impact Tourism Experiences (DLITE)

Best Time-Targeted Campaign

Rehoboth Beach Boardwalk Buddy Walk

Best Targeted Demographic Campaign

Rehoboth Beach Boardwalk Buddy Walk

Best Partnership

The 2nd Annual Delaware Book Festival
Delaware Division of Libraries

Most Improved Tourism Product

Delaware Art Museum

The award-winners were presented with hand-crafted artwork, designed by Marcie Tauber, a local glass artisan. Tauber is a member of Delaware By Hand, an organization that promotes Delaware's resident-based crafts industry. For more information, visit www.delawarebyhand.org.

More information about the 2008 Governor's Tourism Summit is available at www.visitdelaware.com/summit_registration.htm. This press release will also be posted to the DEDO Newsroom at <http://dedo.delaware.gov/GTS.html>.

About Delaware Tourism Office

The Delaware Tourism Office, a division of the Delaware Economic Development Office, promotes tourism and economic growth in Delaware. The Office is dedicated to fulfilling the requests and needs of travelers by offering information and resources about Delaware activities, attractions and destinations. For more information, visit the official Delaware Tourism Web site at www.VisitDelaware.com or call toll-free 866-284-7483.

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