

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Hart Schaffner Marx named recipient of 2019 economic development award for keeping jobs in Illinois**

CHICAGO – The Illinois Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the Illinois Economic Development Association (IEDA), awarded **Hart Schaffner Marx (HSM)** with their **11th Annual Economic Development in Illinois Award**. Known as the 'Edies', the awards recognize outstanding economic development projects completed in the calendar year 2018 that bring jobs, growth and prosperity to Illinois communities.

“We are proud that HSM was selected for their commitment to keeping manufacturing, innovation and jobs here in Illinois,” said Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch. “Effective projects come in all shapes and sizes and the Edies are designed to recognize initiatives that make the most significant impacts in their communities. HSM shows the incredible contribution one business can have on the economic success, community growth and lives of people living in Illinois.”

HSM is a 100-year-old manufacturer of men’s suits located in Cook County. The company was recently forced to relocate as its building was being demolished and the site re-purposed for different use. The search for a new facility site included relocation options throughout the Midwest. Through the company's effort and innovative collaboration between the City of Des Plaines and Cook County, HSM remained in Des Plaines, relocated to a new, local facility, and retained the 400 manufacturing positions that could have been lost to a Midwest neighbor.

“The City of Des Plaines was proud to nominate HSM for their longstanding commitment to Des Plaines,” said Des Plaines City Manager Mike Bartholomew. “We successfully worked with HSM and Cook County to make it financially feasible for the company to stay in Illinois, maintain its current employee base, and continue being a manufacturing icon in Des Plaines.”

The Edies are divided into two geographical categories with HSM receiving the award from the Chicago Metropolitan area (Cook, DuPage, Dekalb, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties). Urban Farmer of Manteno won for the outside the Chicago metro area category.

“It’s evident by the project submissions and this year’s winners that Illinois truly is an economic powerhouse,” said IEDA Chairman Bryan Gay. “Thanks to their investment in our communities, we can continue to provide jobs and economic growth across Illinois.”

The awards were made possible by this year’s sponsor Nicor Gas and projects were judged based on a mix of quantitative and qualitative criteria.

“Nicor Gas is a proud sponsor of the Edie Awards and celebrates efforts to showcase economic accomplishments that have a real benefit to Illinois,” said Nicor Gas Director of Customer Development Marie LaPorte. “Working with partners like the Illinois Chamber and IEDA, Nicor Gas continues to support tangible investments that bring jobs and economic prosperity to our communities. It is a joy to support these awards and we congratulate the 2019 winners!”

About the Edies:

For more than a decade, the Edies have honored those who imagine, design, invest, build and bring jobs, growth and prosperity to Illinois communities. The awards showcase business accomplishments that often translate into more jobs and greater economic vitality in Illinois. You can find out more about the awards, including categories, criteria and past winners: [here](#).

**Photo Attached**

**Caption: From left: Rick Trujillo, Nicor Gas; Bryan Gay, IEDA; Michael McMahon, City of Des Plaines; Joe Hicks, Nicor Gas; Whitney Barnes, Illinois Chamber of Commerce**

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