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Buckeye Hills-HVRDD Development Director Bret Allphin (left) with NADO President Jeff Kiley and Outreach and Development Director Jill McCartney receive the NADO awards.

Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District Receives National Association of Development Organizations 2016 Innovation Awards

WASHINGTON, DC – Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District (BH-HVRDD) based in Marietta, Ohio, has received two 2016 Innovation Awards from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Ohio River Medical Mission and the Appalachian Ohio P-20 Council efforts.

The Ohio River Medical Mission hosted in Pomeroy last June was an innovative readiness training with the U.S. military. Years in the planning, the mission provided medical, dental, vision and veterinary services to the community at no charge. The 10-day event served a total of 2,952 patients and animals with an estimated total cost savings to the community of nearly \$740,000. The patients came from 61 towns across 20 counties in four states.

In addition, the Appalachian Ohio P-20 Council, another program that Buckeye Hills was pleased to partner in creating, won a NADO Innovation Award. The Council serves nine counties in two Educational Service Centers working to inspire a regional commitment to student success through community collaboration and partnerships. From pre-school through career training or even post-graduate studies, the Appalachian Council hopes to make every student college or career ready. Learn more at www.aop20.org.

NADO is a Washington, DC-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The association's Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and their partners for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities.

Award-winning projects were honored during NADO's 2016 Annual Training Conference, held October 15-18 in San Antonio, Texas. The 2016 class of award recipients consists of 96 projects spanning 28 states. These projects are presented in an interactive "Story Map" developed by NADO and Esri and include project summaries, funding information, and partners. The Story Map is available online at: <https://www.nado.org/innovation-awards/>.

"Since 1986 through its Innovation Awards program, NADO has recognized the transformative work regional development organizations perform every day. Award-winning projects showcase best practices across the country in regional development that support prosperous communities, stronger local economies, and improved quality of life for residents," said 2015-2016 NADO Board President Jeffrey Kiely, Executive Director of the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments, located in Gallup, New Mexico.

For more information about these award-winning Buckeye Hills projects, and our programs and services, contact 1-800-331-2644 or visit www.buckeyehills.org.

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Since 1967 the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) has provided advocacy, education, networking, and research for the national network of 540 regional development organizations. NADO members provide professional, programmatic, and technical assistance to over 2,300 counties and 15,000 municipalities.