



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information or to acquire digital photos:

Melanie Baillargeon: 207-215-8430 (cell)

Jen Webber: 207-939-0213 (cell)

Junior Achievement to honor Maine State Chamber President Dana Connors with Maine Business Hall of Fame award

Connors among three recognized this year for contributions to Maine's economy

PORTLAND, MAINE — Junior Achievement of Maine will honor Maine State Chamber of Commerce president Dana Connors at its 25th Maine Business Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the Portland Marriott at Sable Oaks in South Portland, Maine on Wednesday, May 7th. Junior Achievement's Maine Business Hall of Fame honors business leaders who are selected in recognition of their significant and enduring contributions to Maine's economy and communities. The laureates provide inspiration to students and young people entering the world of business. Other leaders being inducted this year into the Maine Business Hall of Fame are Alan Ordway of Winona Camps for Boys and John Ryan of Wright-Ryan Construction.

"It is a true honor to be recognized by such an outstanding organization as Junior Achievement, and I am sincerely humbled to be in the company of this year's and previous laureates, all of whom have served as great leaders in Maine," said Connors. "Maine's business community is committed to ensuring we prepare our future leaders for the workforce and the benefits they will bring to Maine's economy and communities. Junior Achievement's contributions to our state's young people who are just beginning to realize their potential are invaluable. I could not think of a greater honor than to be recognized in this manner."

"Dana Connors exemplifies the type of person Junior Achievement hopes its students will become," said Junior Achievement of Maine president Steve Mortimer. "He embraces challenge, is passionate about helping others, and is determined to do all he can for the state of Maine. Under his leadership, the Chamber has had a lasting impact on Maine's economy, including jobs and education. Dana is a consensus-builder whose work and reputation is so widely known that the Maine State Chamber received the 2013 President's Award as the most outstanding chamber in the U.S. I can think of no one better for Junior Achievement to honor in this, our 25th Anniversary Maine Business Hall of Fame celebration."

Connors began his career in 1968 as the city manager of Presque Isle. He held that position for 16 years. He subsequently served 10 years as commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation, serving during two administrations. Connors has served as president of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce for the past 20 years. Under his leadership, the Chamber has been recognized as the state's most influential business organization with lasting impacts on Maine's economy. Connors has taken the Chamber from more than a business trade association to tackling issues that have statewide impact – such as focusing on our state's workforce needs, growing our population and ensuring that all parties needed in ensuring the state's success are at the table. As the leader of the state's largest and most diverse business association, Connors dedicates his energy to achieving goals that will enhance prosperity for all Maine people.

Under Connors' leadership, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce has received the following recent awards:

- 2013 President's Award from the Council of State Chambers and the Association of State Chamber Professionals for the most outstanding chamber in the U.S.; and,
- 2013 Prosperity Project Star Achievement Award in recognition of excellence in the area of the Prosperity Project's Communications and Materials.

Connors has also received the following awards:

- The 2012 Distinguished Maine Policy Fellow from the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, University of Maine;
- The Maine Development Foundation's Leadership for Maine's Economic Future Award;
- The nationally-recognized Paul Harris Service Award from the Presque Isle Rotary International Club;
- The Maine Public Administrator of the Year Award from the American Society for Public Administration;
- The Major Achievements in Construction Award from the Associated General Contractors; and,
- The Outstanding Community Service on Behalf of Eastport Business Development Award from the city of Eastport, Maine.

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About the Maine State Chamber of Commerce...

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce represents a diverse network of 5,000 businesses statewide and advocates on behalf of their interests before the Legislature and regulatory agencies and through conferences, seminars, and affiliated programs. Through its OneVoice program and collaboration with local and regional chambers throughout the state, the Maine State Chamber represents thousands of businesses with fewer than 10 employees. Its Grassroots Action Network works to involve members and their employees in the legislative process through outreach campaigns.