



MEDIA RELEASE

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Huntington, WV America in Bloom National 2013 Awards Results Announced

(COLUMBUS, OH): After months of anxious waiting, top honors for the prestigious 2013 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Orlando, Florida on September 21.

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, “America in Bloom is helping participants of all types achieve their potential. The accomplishments and progress shown by this year's towns and cities is remarkable.”

Huntington received a four bloom rating and also won the America in Bloom YouTube video award.

Huntington was judged on six criteria: overall impression, community involvement, environmental awareness, heritage, urban forestry, landscape, and floral displays, across four sectors: municipal, residential, commercial, and community involvement.

Bruce Riggs and Barbara Vincentsen, two specially trained AIB judges, visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Other competitors in the 30,001 to 50,000 category were Holland, MI; DeKalb, IL; and Winter Garden, FL.

Riggs and Vincentsen were particularly impressed by the city's overall impression and commented, “Huntington is undergoing a renaissance which is transforming the downtown area into a vibrant arts and business center teeming with shops and social venues. Graffiti is removed as soon as it appears. Trees are being planted and attractive plantings in red white and blue flowers adorn the streets during the summer. The restaurants are flourishing and there is always an event to attend.”

Congratulations to Huntington!

Registrations for the 2014 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2014. Eligible participants include towns, cities, college and university campuses, business districts, military installations, and recognized neighborhoods of large cities.

America in Bloom is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements. America in Bloom provides educational programs, resources, and the challenge of a friendly competition between participating communities across the country. For more information, visit www.americainbloom.org.