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Christopher Bruno, Fairfax City Economic Development Director, Wins 40 Under 40 in Economic Development Award

Fairfax City, Virginia – Christopher Bruno, Economic Development Director, Fairfax City Economic Development, has been announced as a recipient of the 2023 Economic Development 40 Under 40 Award, the biennial award recognizing rising stars under 40 years old in the economic development industry.

The awards program is hosted by Development Counsellors International (DCI), a New York-based integrated marketing firm that works with economic development and travel organizations around the globe, and Jorgenson Consulting, a leading national executive search firm serving organizations in non-profit, economic, and community development industries. An independent selection committee of six economic development leaders and site selection consultants evaluated nominations based on demonstration of strong leadership, commitment and innovation every day in the workplace.

"The purpose-driven work of economic development plays a vital role in communities around the world, and much of it is led by young professionals," said **Julie Curtin, president of DCI's economic development practice**. "These 40 rising stars are contributing their creativity, dedication and leadership to make a tremendous impact in their communities and our industry as a whole, and I so look forward to what lies ahead in their careers."

"Under Chris's leadership the Economic Development team has grown significantly in size, scope, and importance. Fairfax City Economic Development has been responsible for successfully overseeing our COVID-19 business response programs, the redevelopment of publicly owned property to a higher and better use, the relocation of our city's incubator, the attraction and retention of a number of core businesses, and the development and deployment of unique and innovative pilot programs," said **Robert Stalzer, City Manager of the City of Fairfax**. "Chris has been intensely focused on the cultivation of partnerships, including those with our neighboring colleges and universities, such as George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College, which has allowed him to leverage many opportunities to elevate Fairfax City Economic Development regionally and nationally."

Chris Bruno has served as Economic Development Director in Fairfax City since 2016. Prior to that he served as Assistant General Counsel at the New York City Department of Small Business Services. He also currently serves as a Senior Fellow for Law and Leadership at New York Law School in New York. In Fairfax City, he has grown the office substantially building teams to provide

direct support to small businesses and leveraging opportunities to launch pilot projects and create unique connections. Since 2019 he has played a role as a founding member of the Northern Virginia Economic Development Alliance, a partnership of the ten Northern Virginia jurisdictions working toward promoting Northern Virginia as the best place in America to grow a business. In 2022, Chris led the office through the development of its first ever strategic work-plan, building the framework for economic development in Fairfax City for the next five years.

“The City of Fairfax benefits from the perspective and experience that Chris brings to developing important partnerships and collaborations with far reaching impacts to our economic development. He is bold, innovative, and he delivers on his vision. He has put together a great team and their energy will move our economy in the direction we want to move as a 21st century community.” said **Catherine Read, City of Fairfax Mayor.**

“The economic development industry continues to evolve and these rising leaders are stepping up to the challenge,” said **Todd Jorgenson, managing director and principal of Jorgenson Consulting, Inc.** “Congratulations to these 40 winners – and to the communities that are lucky to benefit from their expertise.”

Award winners were announced Sunday night at a reception hosted by DCI and Jorgenson at the JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Resort & Spa. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) 2023 Leadership Summit, the only conference held exclusively for Certified Economic Developers and senior managers in the profession.

For more information on the 40 Under 40 awards program and this year’s winners, visit econdev40under40.com.

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About Fairfax City Economic Development

Fairfax City Economic Development is the lead agency for supporting a resilient economy and business ecosystem. The Office serves to promote, identify, and assist businesses with location, expansion, and capacity building services within the City while creating systems and programs that encourage commercial and retail development. The Fairfax City EDO also serves as the primary point of contact with the Fairfax City Economic Development Authority, an independent but related agency of the City of Fairfax. Visit fairfaxcityconnected.com or follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook @fairfaxcityEDA.

About DCI

Development Counsellors International (DCI) is the leader in travel, economic development and talent attraction marketing. Since 1960, DCI has worked with more than 500 cities, regions, states and countries, helping them attract business investors, visitors and workers. DCI has offices in New York and Denver. For more information, visit aboutdci.com or follow [@aboutDCI](https://twitter.com/aboutDCI) on Twitter.

About Jorgenson Consulting

Founded in 1992, Jorgenson Consulting has worked diligently over the past 29 years to establish itself as a premier national executive search firm. With a focus on the fields of non-profit, economic and community development, we partner with our clients to help them identify and secure the highest caliber of executive talent. Our goal is to develop a thorough understanding of our clients and leverage that knowledge with our own expertise and resources to source executive talent that can truly serve the organization by yielding economic benefits while also contributing to a community’s competitive advantage. www.jci-inc.net