

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 1, 2003

Media Contact(s): Kyle D. O'Brien, Town Manager
(540) 896-5152
Nancy Stark, Director Community and Economic Development
National Center for Small Communities
(202) 624-3556

The National Center for Small Communities announced today that the Town of Broadway was one of two finalists nationwide for the Grassroots Rural Entrepreneurship Award. This award recognizes and promotes achievement in entrepreneurial development resulting from the outstanding leadership of local government officials. The award was open to any community in the United States with a population of less than 10,000 that have a demonstrated record of promoting local entrepreneurship.

This national award identifies local leaders, in rural areas, that build a supportive environment for entrepreneurs to conduct business. Broadway was recognized for its forward thinking in establishing its revolving loan fund through a \$99,500 federal RBEG grant, for establishing a creative and innovative web site with various interactive forms for local businesses, for establishing the Broadway Hometown Partnership (BHP) and its continued progress, and for initiating an environment that provides for collaboration among a broad range of public and private sector groups, organizations and constituencies.

The NCSC assembled a panel of rural entrepreneurship experts to evaluate the Grassroots Rural Entrepreneurship Award applications on the basis of five criteria: Level of Effort, Impact, Innovativeness, Repeatability, and Proposed Use of Award Funds. The judges looked for applications that demonstrated achievement in entrepreneurial development resulting from the outstanding leadership of local government officials. The winning community was Fairfield, Iowa (pop. 9,602), for demonstrating a 12-year tradition of supporting and promoting innovative entrepreneurial strategies by expanding ordinances governing qualified home occupations, collaborating with agencies to provide in-depth business development seminars for entrepreneurs, furnishing advanced telecommunications, and creating the Fairfield Entrepreneurs Association. The other finalist was Turner County, South Dakota (pop. 8,849).

The Town of Broadway is very excited to be nationally recognized for the various projects that are underway or have been completed over the past several years. Mayor Wanda Wilt said, "This award confirms that Broadway continues to lead the way in forward thinking and innovative economic development efforts." The Town will be honored at the NCSC annual conference, Sept. 3-5, in Washington, DC.

For more information on the award criteria, visit the website
<http://www.natat.org/ncsc/Kauffman/entrepdefault.htm>

#