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EDITORS: The following information is for immediate release. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Fuchs, KIZ project consultant of the Chester County Economic Development Council, at 610 458-5700.

Chester County Keystone Innovation Zone companies report more than \$7 million revenue increase in last six months

30 new jobs created and 116 jobs retained

EXTON _ Fifteen of the Chester County Keystone Innovation Zone companies collectively reported more than \$7 million in increased revenue for the second half of 2009. The companies also report 30 new jobs created and 116 retained.

The Chester County KIZ companies are start-up and accelerator companies that are located within the designated zone, have been in operation eight years or less and are in the bio, life sciences and technology industries. KIZ is a Department of Community and Economic Development initiative focused on the building of knowledge-based economies and the cultivation of entrepreneurship in Pennsylvania. These activities are accomplished through the gathering and aligning of resources educational institutions, private business, business support organizations, commercial lending institutions, venture capital networks and foundations.

Eligible KIZ companies have the opportunity to access a number of benefits that may be available to them at, typically, no cost. Among the benefits the companies may qualify for are KIZ specific tax credits, intern reimbursement, training reimbursement and access to translational research and grant funds.

Key partners in the Chester County KIZ include: Chester County Economic Development Council, Ben Franklin Technology Partners-Southeastern Pennsylvania, CresaPartners, Drexel University, PECO, an Exelon Corporation, Fox Rothchild LLP, Kutztown University, Liberty Property Trust, MVM Associates, Penn State University Great Valley, Pennsylvania BIO, and West Chester University.

The Chester County Economic Development Council is a private, non-profit economic development organization that has been nurturing economic growth in Chester County and the surrounding region for 50 years. The Council's portfolio of business growth services includes: low-interest financing, small business lending, workforce training, retention and expansion, customized international business assistance, land and building site selection, brownfields consultation and remediation, urban redevelopment, and agricultural economic development. The Council also offers state-of-the art conference and training facilities at its facility in Eagleview. For more information, see www.cceconomicdevelopment.com.