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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MERCER COUNTY 2008 MARKETING EFFORTS AWARDED

--County Tourism Increases Despite Economic Recession--

Pittsburgh, Pa.- January 14, 2009- Withstanding difficult times in the economy, 2008 has been a year of industry awards and attention for Mercer County, Pa. With top-rated bed and breakfasts, inns, nationally ranked golf courses and one-of-a kind shopping and dining options, Mercer County has become a popular tourist destination, earning high honors from the most recognized travel industry names.

The Terra Nova House Bed and Breakfast in Grove City, one of Mercer County's most popular accommodations, was voted "Top 12 Inns Worldwide" by BedandBreakfast.com for 2008-2009. In addition, the Terra Nova House was voted "Top Ten B&B in America" by BedandBreakfast.com in 2007-2008. In January of 2008, Buhl Mansion Guesthouse & Spa, another popular Bed and Breakfast, was selected as one of America's "Top 10 Most Romantic Inns" by iloveinns.com.

A well-rounded destination that attracts tourists with a variety of interests, Mercer County also received recognition when local professional golfer Bob Collins from the Oak Tree Country Club earned the 2008 Professional Golf Association President's Plaque. Collins' award followed in the wake of major golf honor when Mercer County was selected by *Golf Digest* magazine as one of America's Top 10 Golf Destinations.

Other awards include when entrepreneurs, Jim and Donna Winner from Mercer County, who were recognized for their contributions to tourism and the community by Governor Rendell and inducted into the Keystone Society for Tourism in May.

“I am excited about all the awards and recognition received by individuals and companies from Mercer County,” said Peggy Mazyck, Executive Director of VisitMercerCountyPA. “In these difficult times, it’s important to keep the focus on valuable assets and talents that the county offers.”

For more information on tourist attractions in Mercer County, log onto www.VisitMercerCountyPA.com or contact 1-800-637-2370.

About Mercer County:

Located in Northwestern Pennsylvania, along the Ohio border, Mercer County is home to name-brand outlets, boutiques and unique specialty stores for shoppers. The area is also known for its more than 25 challenging golf courses of inspired design. Golf Digest ranked Mercer County as one of its top golf destinations. Visitors can dine on mouthwatering cuisine in Mercer County's array of fine restaurants and then stay overnight in a well-appointed hotel, a luxurious bed and breakfast or a cozy country inn. Close to Pittsburgh, Erie, Cleveland and other major markets, Mercer County is easily accessible via I-80 and I-79. The County offers the perfect escape. For more information, visit www.VisitMercerCountyPa.com

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