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Macon Earns Smart Rural CommunitySM Designation

MACON, MO – October 25, 2024 – On Wednesday, October 23, Chariton Valley and Macon County Economic Development (MCED) hosted a ceremony to announce the designation of Macon as a Smart Rural CommunitySM (SRC) while also celebrating the MCED's new office location at 102 Vine in downtown Macon!

This prestigious designation highlights the use of Chariton Valley's fiber network for the betterment of the community and the work of many community leaders who labor tirelessly to strengthen Macon economically while maintaining its unique rural charm.

As Ryan Johnson, CEO and President of Chariton Valley, explained, "Smart Rural CommunitiesSM is a national network of communities powered by innovative rural broadband providers building a brighter future for small-town America. The program promotes rural broadband and its role in supporting innovative economic development, effective education, efficient energy distribution and use, state-of-the-art health care, and other prominent issues for rural America."

Laura Bradshaw, Macon County Economic Development Director, submitted the award application in which she shared that with high-speed fiber internet, Macon has seen economic growth, increased educational opportunities, improved telehealth access, more community engagement and doors being opened to new hobbies, working remotely, and connecting with loved ones far way.

"Receiving the Smart Rural CommunitySM designation from Chariton Valley highlights the importance of connectivity, not just for our economic development, but also for fostering collaboration, innovation and enhancing the quality of life for our citizens!" Bradshaw stated. "It opens our rural America to an entire world with speed reliability and keeps us working safely with equal to or better abilities!" she concluded.

Sharon Scott, Macon Area Chamber of Commerce Director, added, "What a wonderful recognition for our community to receive the Smart Rural designation! The combined action of our two organizations who are focused on the same objective and goals is the key to success. Combining the Macon Area Chamber of Commerce and Macon County Economic Development is so wonderful for our community!"

Bradshaw accepted the SRC certificate on behalf of the community. Several community leaders were present and many expressed appreciation for this designation.

"Our purpose is to ignite progress in communities through digital transformation, fuel economic growth and enhance the quality of life for everyone," said Johnson. "Congratulations on your new office location and being designated as an SRC! We are excited for what the future holds for Macon!" he concluded.

To learn more about Chariton Valley fiber or sign up for service, visit www.cvalley.net/fiber or call 660-395-9000.

About Chariton Valley

Through its influential leadership, innovative advances, and 70+ years of experience, Chariton Valley, Missouri's premier communications provider, continues to enhance rural prosperity and living. Chariton Valley's reliable network utilizes fiber facilities to expand connectivity to students, families, farmers, businesses, medical facilities and rural communities every day. Chariton Valley's success is driven by a commitment to deliver an exceptional customer experience and to continue proudly supporting the communities it serves. Learn more at www.cvalley.net.

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