



## **NEWS RELEASE | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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### **City observes International Business Appreciation Day**

On February 12, 2025, in honor of International Business Appreciation Day, the Danville Office of Economic Development & Tourism (DOEDT) recognized the existing foreign industries in the Southern Virginia region, including nine companies located in Danville and Pittsylvania County. The City of Danville has celebrated this day of observance since 2013, when former mayor Sherman Saunders made the original proclamation.

"Danville's strong economic foundation is built on industry, innovation, and investment, and our international business partners are a vital part of that success," said Danville Mayor, Alonzo Jones. "Their contributions create jobs, drive economic growth, and bring cultural diversity that enriches our community. As we celebrate International Business Appreciation Day, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering a welcoming environment for global industries that choose to call Danville home."

City Manager Ken Larking said he is proud that we have many internationally owned businesses within Danville. "It says a lot about our community that investors from other countries see opportunities to be successful here," Larking said. "These investments help to create jobs and other indirect economic benefit for our region."

"Today, we celebrate the many international countries that have planted their roots in our region," reflects DOEDT Director, Corrie Bobe. "Their innovation creates jobs, fuels economic growth, and enhances our quality of life for residents and visitors. Through this diversification of cultures, products, services, investments, and ideas, our region only grows stronger and more connected with global partners. We are grateful in their role in shaping the future of Southern Virginia."

The DOEDT plans to host an appreciation event to engage with local partners and international businesses in March. At this event, businesses will be invited to raise their country's flag on Bridge Street.

Flags of the respective countries can be viewed throughout the year at 512 Bridge Street, Danville. The city has also taken steps to expand the sidewalks and update the flags and flagpoles.

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**About the Danville Office of Economic Development & Tourism**

The Danville Office of Economic Development & Tourism recruits and retains businesses for the Danville area. The office provides information on available sites and buildings, incentives and other financial resources and offers a website designed for the business community: [www.discoverdanville.com](http://www.discoverdanville.com).