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Green River Area Development District Receives National Association of Development Organizations 2022 Impact Award

WASHINGTON, DC – The Green River Area Development District has received a 2022 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Hire to Operate (H2O) Apprenticeship Training Program.

The H2O program utilizes grant funds through the Delta Workforce Program to pay for 1,000 hours of On-the-Job Training and 202.25 hours of Related Technical Instruction for water and wastewater operator apprentices participating in Kentucky Rural Water Association’s Registered Apprenticeship Program (KRWA RAP). The KRWA RAP is a high-quality apprenticeship program that provides individuals with opportunities to obtain workplace-relevant knowledge and progressively advancing skills through on-the-job training and related technical instruction. Apprentices are often hired without full knowledge or required credentials in their industry. With training and support from their employer, they gain the skills needed to ensure success in their new career. The H2O project removes financial barriers to encourage enrollment in the KRWA RAP.

NADO is a Washington, DC-based membership association of regional development organizations that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The Impact Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and their partners for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation’s regions and local communities.

Award-winning projects were recognized during NADO’s 2022 Annual Training Conference, held in Pittsburgh, PA on October 15-18.

“We are honored to receive this award for our innovative program. GRADD recognized that our utilities were struggling to hire critical water and wastewater operators due to the national workforce shortage and an influx of retirees in the industry. Our response was to create this program,” said GRADD Executive Director Joanna Shake.

“To date, two apprentices have graduated as certified operators: one water and one wastewater. Six more are anticipated to graduate by the end of the year with their certifications and all apprentices have been hired by their respective sponsor utility. We are really proud of the H2O program’s success,” said GRADD Workforce Development Coordinator Paula Payne.

The NADO Impact Awards are presented in honor of the late Aliceann Wohlbruck who was NADO’s first executive director and served 24 years as a tireless champion for regional approaches to economic development in rural communities.

For more information about this award-winning project, contact Paula Payne, GRADD Workforce Development Coordinator, at 270-852-1359 or paulapayne@gradd.com.

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Since 1967 the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) has provided advocacy, education, networking, and research for the national network of 540 regional development organizations. NADO members provide professional, programmatic, and technical assistance to over 2,300 counties and 15,000 municipalities.