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***The Southwestern Pennsylvania Engineering Outreach Sponsors  
Sixth Annual Networking Forum***

*Pittsburgh, PA, August 31, 2005* -- The Southwestern Pennsylvania Engineering Outreach (SPEO) is sponsoring its sixth annual networking forum on Thursday evening, September 15, 2005 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at The Engineer's Club. The keynote speaker for the evening is Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato.

Dan Onorato was sworn into office as the second Chief Executive of Allegheny County, Pa. on January 2, 2004. Since taking office, Chief Executive Onorato has displayed strong leadership in positioning the county and region for future success. He secured more than \$73 million in state funding to initiate the transformation of the county's former industrial sites and ignite economic growth around the Pittsburgh International Airport. The Chief Executive was also instrumental in attracting Southwest Airlines and other low-fare carriers to the Pittsburgh region.

Among other accomplishments, the Chief Executive eliminated the county's \$31 million structural deficit. He achieved significant cost-savings by reducing the size of county government through row office reform while continuing to implement other cost-saving measures.

Mr. Onorato is a life-long native of Allegheny County. He attended the Pennsylvania State University, where in 1983 he earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. He worked several years as a Certified Public Accountant before

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continuing his education at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, earning a Juris Doctorate degree in 1989.

Mr. Onorato practiced as an attorney until he was elected to Pittsburgh City Council in 1992 where he served two terms. In 2000, he was elected to serve as Allegheny County Controller.

Mr. Onorato, 44, and his wife, Shelly, reside in the Brighton Heights neighborhood of Pittsburgh with their children Kate, Emily and Danny.

The SPEO Networking Forum is designed to provide invaluable opportunities for protégé firms, mentoring firms, potential clients, and political leaders to lay groundwork for long term and mutually beneficial relationships with local MBE/WBE firms. It also provides SPEO with the opportunity to strengthen its overall outreach program. Reservations will be accepted until close of business Wednesday, September 7, 2005. This event is open to the public; however, individuals who are not members of SPEO may attend at a cost of \$20 (checks should be made payable to SPEO). Reservations can be made by contacting Suzanne Thomas at (412) 948-1905, ext. 6055, or via email at [stthomas@maglevinc.com](mailto:stthomas@maglevinc.com).

SPEO was formerly the Pittsburgh MBE/WBE Engineering Initiative. The primary objective of the program is to support and mentor existing minority and women-owned engineering firms in the Pittsburgh region so that they can expand their business capabilities and enhance their long-term viability. For more information about SPEO's mentoring and protégé program or membership, please contact Im Sook, Chairperson, SPEO Board of Directors at 412-749-1199, ext. 14) or via email at [imsook@controlslink.com](mailto:imsook@controlslink.com).

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