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**ILLINOIS GREEN INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION RECEIVES URBAN FORESTRY AWARD  
FROM THE CHICAGO REGION TREES INITIATIVE**

*-Awards will be presented during CRTI's annual Partner Recognition Celebration-*

LISLE, Ill. (November 25, 2019) - The Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) has honored the Illinois Green Industry Association with an Urban Forestry Award for providing students with an opportunity to experience the nursery and landscape industry in Illinois with a “hands-on” approach to prepare them for careers in horticulture. The awards, presented at CRTI’s sixth annual Partner Recognition Celebration, recognize people, public and private organizations, and communities that are leaders in protecting, expanding and enhancing the tree canopy in the Chicago Region.

CRTI accepts award nominations year-round, honoring those effecting positive change for trees in the Chicago Region at its Partner Recognition Celebration each year. Categories include Best Natural Area/Woodland Conservation, Outstanding Community Advocate, Most Innovative Urban Forestry Program, Most Beneficial Tree Program, Neighborhood Tree Champion, Partnerships for Success and Forestry Professional of the Year. Past awardees include the Calumet Stewardship Initiative, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Blacks in Green, Davey Tree Experts, the North Central College Tree Board, and the Land Conservancy of McHenry County.

Comprising more than 160 partner organizations, the Chicago Region Trees Initiative strives to make the Chicago region the greenest, most livable, and most resilient region in North America, and believes that trees are critical to achieving this vision.

“The mission of the Chicago Region Trees Initiative is to make a significant and measurable improvement to the Chicago region’s tree canopy, but we can’t accomplish this goal without partners like the Illinois Green Industry Association,” said Lydia Scott, director, CRTI. “CRTI is proud to honor the Illinois Green Industry Association as leaders in protecting and caring for our region’s trees, enhancing the quality of life for our region’s residents.”

**About Illinois Green Industry Association**

The Illinois Green Industry Association (IGIA) is proud to be a leader in Illinois’ nursery and landscape industry. Founded in 1925, and formerly known as the Illinois Nurserymen’s Association, the IGIA is one of the oldest agricultural organizations in the state. We work on behalf of our members to promote and protect greenhouse and nursery growers, landscape professionals, retail garden centers, irrigation contractors, and other green industry partners. Our mission is to help strengthen the position of our member businesses by offering industry certification, distinctive opportunities for education and networking, legislative and regulatory representation, and other member services.

**About the Chicago Regional Trees Initiative**

The Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) is a partnership for coordinated action on key issues facing trees. It is the largest such initiative in the country, with leading organizations and agencies from across the seven-county Chicago metropolitan region working together to leverage funding, knowledge, skills, and expertise to build a healthier and more diverse regional forest.

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