



Release Date: 1/27/12

Contact: Pat Danahy, (336) 387-8303
pdanahy@greensboro.org

THE GREENSBORO PARTNERSHIP HOSTS 2012 ANNUAL DINNER

January 27, 2012 – (Greensboro, NC) Last night's Annual Dinner of the Greensboro Partnership, held at the Sheraton Four Seasons/Koury Convention Center, placed a focus on our community's recent successes and touched on the Partnership's new strategic plan. Carole Bruce, Partner at Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP and Greensboro Partnership Board Chair, highlighted the strategic focus of the Greensboro Partnership toward transforming our local economy from basic manufacturing to a knowledge-based one. Approximately 675 guests were in attendance.

The evening's keynote speaker was New York Times Best-Selling Author Tommy Spaulding, who wrote *It's Not Just Who You Know*. His message focused on the importance of relationships and collaboration, and how this determines whether we simply reach a goal or inspire greatness.

"Carefully investing and directing our resources are critical to maximize economic development and realize an improved quality of life for all," commented Pat Danahy, President and CEO of the Greensboro Partnership. "We must focus globally and work collaboratively locally to meet our challenges in transforming our local economy, creating new jobs and capital investment. This will bring many new vital opportunities for economic growth."

Last night's dinner also marked the official launch of the community's One Job for Greensboro campaign, a collaborative effort between the City of Greensboro, the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, and the Guilford Merchants Association. To date, 56 local organizations have pledged to invest in 412 new jobs, achieving 41% of the initiative's goal of 1000 jobs in 2012. Organizations that have not pledged yet are encouraged to visit www.onejobgreensboro.org for additional information.

Three community service awards were also given at the annual dinner. The Thomas Z. Osborne Award, given to a citizen who has demonstrated extraordinary service and achievement within the community, is the highest honor given by the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce and is presented jointly with Duke Energy. This year's recipient is **Tim Rice**, President and CEO of Cone Health. Under Rice's leadership, Cone Health plays a critical role as an economic development engine for this region, generating nearly 6 percent of the area's total employment and fostering more than \$2.2 billion in revenue for area businesses. Rice serves on many boards and civic organizations, among them N.C. A&T State University, the Greensboro Partnership, Piedmont Triad Partnership, and the GTCC Foundation.

The Athena Award is a national honor presented by the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce to an individual who attains the highest level of professional excellence, and is committed to improving the quality of life for others and the advancement of women. This year's recipient is **Janet Ward Black**, Attorney and Principal Owner of Ward Black Law, for her professional excellence and achievement, advocacy for women's issues, and dedicated service to others. During her tenure as President of the N.C. Bar Association, Ward Black created a new, critically needed program called "Justice 4 All." This program is being used as a model in the United States and Canada for providing free legal services to the poor. The Athena Award was sponsored by Bill Black Chevrolet Cadillac.

The O. Henry Award is presented jointly by the Greensboro Partnership and the United Arts Council of Greensboro. It is given to recognize an individual's outstanding contribution to the arts and cultural development of the community. Last night's award was given to **Susan Shore Schwartz**, for her leadership, support, and innovative ideas that have had a vital impact on the quality of life in Greensboro, from the Greensboro Symphony and Triad Stage, to public art for Center City Park and the Downtown Greenway, to the United Arts Council's new 17 Days Festival. She serves on numerous boards of arts and community organizations, improving and developing the arts and culture in Greensboro.

The Greensboro Partnership is the principal economic and community development organization in Greensboro through the work of its three member organizations, the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, Action Greensboro, and Greensboro Economic Development Alliance. The Partnership works to develop a vibrant community that creates, expands and attracts business while advancing the quality of life for all.

###