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## Greensboro Partnership Unveils Entrepreneurial Support Structure

February 13, 2009 (Greensboro, NC) – The Greensboro Partnership announced plans today to create an entrepreneurial structure within the Partnership to implement the Strategic Plan elements related to entrepreneurship and the recommendations of the Entrepreneurship Committee.

Rob Clapper, Greensboro Chamber of Commerce President will serve as the Director of Entrepreneurism for the Partnership and Kathy Elliott will be the Vice-President of Entrepreneurism and Small Business. An additional position will be added to the Entrepreneurism and Small Business department to support entrepreneurial initiatives in Greensboro. The reorganization comes as a mechanism to foster high growth entrepreneurial business, one of the main initiatives of the Greensboro Partnership's strategic plan and the focus of the 2007 Entrepreneurism Report.

"This reorganization is a critical step forward in cultivating an environment where entrepreneurship can flourish while continuing the excellent programs and services that PTEN has provided to the community for the last several years," commented Greensboro Partnership President, Pat Danahy. We are excited about creating this mechanism for entrepreneurial development within the organization, which builds on the existing strengths of the Chamber's small business development program."

Kathy Elliott has served as the Vice-President of Small Business Development at the Chamber for the last 13 years, where she developed the Business Academy Program, helped to grow the Small Business Consortium of business support organizations, and served as the Chair of the Nussbaum Center for Entrepreneurship for six years. Elliott served formerly as the director of a Small Business Development Center in Corpus Christi, TX and in the defense conversion program of the Small Business Development Center in Charleston, SC.

"Kathy brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this position," commented Greensboro Chamber President, Rob Clapper. "Fostering an entrepreneurial community is about making critical connections between businesses, financial institutions, higher education, and a host of other organizations. Kathy understands the business and entrepreneurial support landscape in the area and knows how to make those connections."

As part of this effort, the Greensboro Partnership plans to continue many of the programs conducted by the Piedmont Triad Entrepreneurial Network (PTEN) prior to its suspension of activities announced earlier this year. "PTEN made strong progress in the region for the development of entrepreneurship. The Greensboro Partnership, through this new structure, will continue and expand upon PTEN's excellent work, both in Greensboro and the region," commented Greg Chabon, chair of the Greensboro Partnership's entrepreneurship committee.

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. Signature projects for the Partnership's business units include the recruitment of FedEx Ground to Greensboro, community-wide events such as the State of the Community address, advancing Greensboro's legislative agenda to the NC General Assembly, as well as the very visible Center City Park and Action Greensboro II plan, recently announced.