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*****MEDIA RELEASE*****

Circle of Success Awards to be held June 18

CBS journalist Byron Pitts to serve as keynote speaker

DURHAM, NC – The Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Circle of Success Awards luncheon on Thurs., June 18 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center (4700 Emperor Blvd.). Registration for the luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. with the program beginning at noon. Tickets are \$35 for Chamber members and \$55 for non members. Reserved tables of eight are also available.

This year's keynote speaker is Byron Pitts, CBS News Senior National Correspondent and 60 Minutes Contributing Correspondent. Pitts was named a contributor to 60 Minutes and chief national correspondent for The CBS Evening News with Katie Couric in January 2008. He had been a national correspondent since February 2006.

Pitts was one of CBS News' lead reporters during the September 11 attacks and won a national Emmy award for his coverage. As an embedded reporter covering the Iraq War, he was recognized for his work under fire within minutes of the fall of the Saddam statue. Other major stories covered by Pitts include Hurricane Katrina, the war in Afghanistan, the military buildup in Kuwait, the Florida fires, the Elian Gonzalez story, the Florida Presidential recount, the mudslides in Central America and the refugee crisis in Kosovo.

Pitts' other awards include a national Emmy Award for his coverage of the Chicago train wreck in 1999 and a National Association of Black Journalists Award. He is also the recipient of four Associated Press Awards and six regional Emmy Awards.

The Circle of Success Awards recognize businesses and individuals in our community that strive to make a difference in the workplace and community through their volunteerism and business practices.

The Chamber will present the Circle of Influence Diversity Awards to a large company (100+ employees), a small company (1-99 employees) and an individual who, through their supplier hiring practices, diversity programs and individual efforts, clearly demonstrate their commitment to proactively pursuing further growth and development of minority and women-owned businesses and the spirit of diversity; the Duke Energy Citizenship & Service Award to an individual or group that exemplifies volunteer leadership and community service; and the Professional Women's Network Inspiration award to a woman that works to empower and uplift women in the workplace and outside of the workplace.



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Interested parties may register online at www.durhamchamber.org. For more information about the Circle of Success Awards, contact Sheena Johnson at (919) 328-8722.

This year's awards nominees include:

Business Nominees:

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina
Child Care Services Association
Cree, Inc.
Duke University & Health System
El Centro Hispano
Latino Community Credit Union
Nurse Care of North Carolina
Sylver CPA, LLC
Town Planner Community Calendar
Triangle Transit

Individual Nominees:

Ms. Marsha Basloe - Durham's Partnership for Children
Ms. Marcia Corprew - Town Planner Community Calendar
Dr. Sharon Elliott-Bynum - CAARE, Inc.
Ms. Debra Giles - Cree, Inc.
Mr. Stephen Hancock - Thomas, Knight, Trent, King and Company
Ms. Meredythe Holmes - Monarch Services
Mr. Ken Lile - Aramark/R.David Thomas Center
Ms. Pat Nathan - Dress for Success Triangle NC
Ms. Lisa Pineiro - Technical Services, Inc.
Mr. Greg Rowland - MindWorks Multimedia
Ms. Kim Ruskan - The Community Chest, Inc.
Ms. Donna Sylver - Sylver CPA, LLC
Mr. Steve Toler - Steve Toler, LLC
Mr. Ron Unger - Work Smart

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