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**\*\*\*MEDIA RELEASE\*\*\***

**Durham receives national recognition for community partnerships**

**DURHAM** - The Durham community has been selected as the 2007 recipient of the Institute for a Competitive Workforce's (ICW) first annual Community Competitiveness Award. ICW is an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The award will be presented to the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce during an awards ceremony and dinner on Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. as part of ICW's annual Education and Workforce Summit at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. The Summit brings together more than 400 leaders in business, education, and workforce development to discuss issues vital to America's competitiveness.

The Community Competitiveness Award acknowledges a city whose initiatives have promoted public and private sector cooperation and contributed to education and workforce development, enhanced the community in which employees learn, work, and live, built relationships with multiple stakeholders and taken a proactive role in regional education, workforce, and economic development issues.

A strong factor in selecting Durham was the effort put forth by the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, Durham Technical Community College, the Durham Public School System, and the local business community. As home to a well-known medical center, prestigious universities, and major businesses in the Research Triangle Park, Durham has shown unbounded support for its public education and training systems.

ICW acknowledged the creation of the Superintendent's Business Advisory Council, which has helped to increase communication between leaders in business, education, and public policy. Also recognized is Durham's commitment to aligning K - 12 and postsecondary education through such programs as the Durham Technical College's Middle College High School and the Carolina Student Transfer Excellence Program (C-STEP).

The Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce was noted for its commitment to developing a skilled and qualified workforce. With initiatives ranging from birth to the 50+ worker, the Chamber is a leader among employer organizations nationwide, and plays an integral role in setting the City of Durham apart from others.

A national conference call will be held tomorrow, Sept. 12 at 1 p.m. to discuss the many partnerships and initiatives in Durham that led to our community receiving the national honor. Interested parties may dial 866-238-0637 to listen in on the conference call. For additional information, please contact the Chamber at 682-2133.

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