

For Immediate Release
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Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau Honors Eure, Ross, Hunter and Horizon Award Winners at Annual Luncheon

Raleigh, N.C. – The Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau honored five individuals with hospitality industry awards today at its 22nd Annual Luncheon.

The award winners are:

Thad Eure, Jr. Memorial Award

Wake Technical Community College (Accepting the award – Dr. Steve Scott)

The Thad Eure, Jr. Memorial Award is the Bureau's longest running and most prestigious award recognizing an individual or organization that has made a major impact on the Wake County hospitality industry. The award is named for the late restaurateur and community leader Thad Eure Jr.

Wake Technical Community College was the 2009 recipient of this award. Since 2007 Wake Tech has partnered with the Bureau to develop and conduct Customer Service Training classes for the front-line staff of our area's hospitality community. The class curriculum was developed through the extensive experience of Wake Tech's faculty along with partners from the area's restaurants, attractions and hotels. This unique collaboration makes up the Community Hospitality Partnership. Wake Tech has been instrumental in assisting the CVB achieve a major strategic initiative by helping the local hospitality community in becoming a benchmark for other destinations in terms of customer service.

John B. Ross, Jr. Leadership Award

Harvey Schmitt, President and CEO of the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce

The John B. Ross Leadership Award was established in 1996 to recognize an outstanding executive management-level individual who displays exceptional leadership skills to positively impact the Wake County hospitality industry and community. The award is given in honor of John Ross, who was the GRCVB Chairman of the Board of Directors in 1995-96. The award exemplifies the courage, leadership, dedication and inspiration that Ross portrayed in the hospitality industry for more than 20 years.

Schmitt is the recipient of the John B. Ross Award due to his continued support of Wake County's tourism industry. He is a dedicated member of the Conference Table was instrumental in lobbying the American Chamber of Commerce Executives to hold their

2009 Annual Convention at the Raleigh Convention Center. The 2009 conference was awarded to Raleigh and was held in July with 1,100 attendees and more than \$900,000 in economic impact.

Horizon Award

Steve Popson, Marketing Coordinator, NC Museum of Natural Sciences

The Horizon Award recognizes exemplary attitude and professionalism of a mid-management level employee who demonstrates the skills to be a future leader in the hospitality industry.

Isaac Hunter Excellence in Service Awards

The Isaac Hunter Excellence in Service Awards honor front-line employees in the local hospitality industry who go above and beyond normal expectations to provide outstanding service to visitors and residents. The 2009 winners were selected in the following categories:

Accommodations

Latonya Williams, Lofton's Server, Hilton North Raleigh

Dining

Quentin Blaise, Lead Server, Saint Jacques French Cuisine

The GRCVB's annual luncheon was held September 10, 2009 at the Raleigh Convention Center.

The Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau, as the official destination marketing organization of Raleigh and Wake County, accelerates sustainable growth and development by increasing visitor and convention business. Through its website, VisitRaleigh.com and other tools, the GRCVB assists local visitors in a variety of ways.

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