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February 10, 2006

2005 Existing Industry Awards

MACON, GA. Macon Economic Development Commission and the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce are proud to announce the recipients of the 2005 Economic Development Champion Award, Existing Industry Award, Small Business of the Year Award and Economic Development Lifetime Achievement Award. The awards were presented at the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting held at the Crowne Plaza Macon on February 10, 2006.

Georgia Power Company was recognized with the Economic Development Champion Award. This award is presented to the company or individual who has contributed to the economic development of Macon and Bibb County. Georgia Power led the effort to bring a leading site selection firm to Macon and Bibb County to conduct a Target Industry study that has led to a total re-branding of the Macon Economic Development Commission marketing program. This new proactive marketing strategy played a major role in the recruitment of Kohl's Distribution Center, Bass Pro Shop Distribution Center, and the Sara Lee Refrigerated/Cooler Distribution Center that resulted in over 650 new jobs and over \$88 million investment.

The Existing Industry of the Year Award is presented to a company that not only provides jobs for Middle Georgians but also gives back time, money and other resources to the community. This year's recipient, Cox Communications, Inc provides over 200 jobs in Macon and has contributed over \$4 million in money and services to make the community a better place to live and work in. Mike Dyer, Vice President and General Manager, Cox Communications accepted the award.

Two local businesses were the recipients of the 2005 Small Business of the Year award. Leonard Beville, CEO, Macon Occupational Medicine accepted the award. Macon Occupational Medicine has developed into one of the leaders in the field of Occupational Medicine. Recognized for its dedication to providing the highest quality of care through its comprehensive service model, Macon Occupational Medicine provides services to business and industries throughout the State of Georgia. Jeff Jones and Clay Murphey, Partners, Satilla Ventures, LLC accepted the award. The local developers recently completed the 110,000 sq ft Gateway Plaza office building in downtown Macon. The team has developed over \$60 million in projects in Georgia and the southeast

The Economic Development Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual whose contributions to economic development in Macon, Bibb County, and the State of Georgia have been truly outstanding. Buckner F. Melton, Sell and Melton, has served as counsel for various development authorities in Macon and Bibb County and was instrumental in developing and promoting authority law that encourages economic development in the state. Buck has spent a lifetime making Georgia a better place for economic development.

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