



Greenville Chamber's CEO Connection to feature South Carolina Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt

PRESS RELEASE

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(GREENVILLE, SC) This CEO Connection lunch event will be held on Friday, December 9, 2011 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Poinsett Club in Greenville. The CEO Connection is an annual peer-to-peer networking opportunity and learning session for CEOs, Presidents, General Managers and Business Owners. Mr. Hitt will provide a statewide Commerce update with a focus on the Upstate and answer questions from the audience.

The event is being presented by Charter Business and sponsored by Bank of America and Bradshaw, Gordon & Clinkscales. Cost to attend is \$35 for Chamber Members and \$55 for non-Members. The Poinsett Club address is 807 E. Washington St. Greenville, SC 29601

For more information, contact Claudia Wise at cwise@greenvillechamber.org or 864-239-3728.

About Bobby Hitt, South Carolina Secretary of Commerce

Robert "Bobby" M. Hitt III was appointed by Governor Nikki Haley to serve as Secretary of Commerce in January 2011. Hitt, the previous manager of corporate affairs at the BMW Manufacturing Company, brings a wealth of economic development experience to the Department of Commerce and has personally worked with the previous five commerce secretaries.

Hitt served as the director of planning and development for the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough law firm in Columbia. In that role, Hitt was involved in bringing the BMW Manufacturing Company to the Upstate, one of the state's largest success stories. He worked for 17 years at The State and The Columbia Record newspapers. He served as the managing editor of The Columbia Record from 1980 to 1987. In 1988, Hitt was named managing editor of its sister paper, The State, a position he held until 1991.

Hitt is the immediate past chairman of the S.C. Manufacturers' Alliance, vice chairman of the Public Affairs Steering Committee for the Southeast Region of the National Association of Manufacturers and the immediate past president and tournament chairman of S.C. Charities

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Inc. (BMW Charity Pro-Am). Additionally, he has served on the executive committees of Advance SC and the Upstate Alliance and on the boards of the S.C. Centers of Economic Excellence, St. Francis Hospital System, Hollings Cancer Center at MUSC and the Spartanburg County Economic Futures Group.

Hitt is a native of Charleston and graduate of the University of South Carolina. USC recognized him as Distinguished Alumni of the Year in 2006. He and his wife Gwen have two sons, Lucas, 31, and Robert Paul, 19.

About the Greenville Chamber

The Greenville Chamber is the largest business organization in the region. The Chamber's vision is to build one of the premier business communities in the world by: leading through collaboration, building community prosperity, being the voice of business and enhancing quality of life. For more information on the Greenville Chamber, call 864-242-1050, or visit www.greenvillechamber.org.

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