



THE GREENVILLE CHAMBER WILL CELEBRATE UPSTATE SMALL BUSINESSES AT THE 2011 GROW EXPO ON TUESDAY, MAY 17TH FROM 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM AT THE CAROLINA FIRST CENTER.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 12, 2011

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(GREENVILLE, SC) The Greenville Chamber's 2011 GROW EXPO will be held next Tuesday, May 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in celebration of National Small Business Week at the Carolina First Center, located at One Exposition Drive in Greenville. Admission is free and open to the public!

GROW EXPO is a showcase of the region's business community. Presenting Sponsors are Business Black Box, Showcase Marketing, and International Plastics.

Attendees will have the opportunity to win prizes by participating in the Tour de Expo. As they arrive in the exhibit hall, they will receive a "passport" to be stamped by participating exhibitors. Completed passports will be put into a drawing for great prize, including Roundtrip Airfare for 2 on Southwest Airlines, a 1-Year Membership at the The Imagine Center, a Dell Computer with Windows XP from Cossban Software & Network, LLC - and more!

ShredDisk will be on hand to shred hard drives for FREE (limit 3 per person).

This year's event will feature a speaker series designed to GROW YOUR THINKING, GROW YOUR RELATIONSHIPS, and GROW YOUR INFLUENCE.

A GROW YOUR RELATIONSHIPS Breakfast will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. This GROW EXPO kick-off meeting will be a strategic networking session. Similar to "speed networking," this event is designed to help attendees increase their company's visibility, practice networking skills, build their referral base. Cost to attend is \$10 with pre-registration at www.greenvillechamber.org or \$15 at the door.

A GROW YOUR INFLUENCE Luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This forum will feature a panel of procurement professionals and experts who will explain the most effective

ways to do business with the most important companies in the Upstate. Invited panelists include representatives from BMW, GE, Michelin, Lockheed Martin, Greenville Hospital System, and the City of Greenville. Cost to attend is \$20 with pre-registration at www.greenvillechamber.org or \$25 at the door. Lunch is included.

A GROW YOUR THINKING Seminar will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. featuring Keynote Presenter RANDY DOBBS. Randy E. Dobbs currently is a Senior Business Operations/Strategic Consultant and Motivational Leadership Speaker both locally and on a national basis. This keynote presentation will offer thoughts and experience on business growth. Randy is renowned for his insightful development of strategies that emphasize relationship-building and strong operational communications with both customers and employees to drive results. The event is FREE to attend.

The GROW EXPO will feature a **Social Media Smackdown**. This will be an area for attendees seeking direction and/or assistance with social media platforms. Expert guests include Vanessa Spranger from Green Elephant Marketing, Jay Spivey from Fete Magazine, Amy Wood from WSPA, Dan Rundle from The Worthwhile Company and representatives from Local Edge and The Marketing Lab.

The GROW EXPO's **Resource Row** will feature organizations that serve the business Community. Resource Row participants include the Greenville Chamber, City of Greenville, Better Business Bureau, PULSE, NEXT, Leadership Greenville, Furman University, Greater Mauldin Chamber of Commerce, Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce, Simpsonville Chamber of Commerce, Clemson University Small Business Development Center, Business Women In Action and the Greenville Chamber's SmartBuys program.

"One of the most exciting parts of the GROW EXPO is the opportunity for our local small businesses to showcase their products or services," said Steve Bailey of Merus Refreshment Services. "GROW EXPO exhibitors experience maximum exposure to event participants, with the potential for tremendous impact on their business."

About the Greenville Chamber

The Greenville Chamber is the largest business organization in the Upstate. The Chamber's mission 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 about the Greenville Chamber, call 864-242-1050, or visit www.greenvillechamber.org.