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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 18, 2008

*****MEDIA RELEASE*****

Circle of Influence Diversity Awards to be held June 25

Dennis W. Archer to serve as keynote speaker

DURHAM, NC – The Multicultural Business & Professional Network of the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce will hold its fifth annual Circle of Influence Diversity Awards Wed., June 25 at the Hope Valley Country Club (3803 Dover Rd.). Registration for the luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. with the program beginning at noon. Tickets are \$30 for Chamber members and \$45 for non members.

This year's keynote speaker is the Honorable Dennis W. Archer, chairman of Dickinson Wright, a Detroit-based law firm with more than 200 attorneys with offices in Michigan and Washington, DC. Archer served two four-year terms as mayor of the City of Detroit and earned national and international respect for his success in changing Detroit's image and direction.

Archer was the first person of color to be elected as president of the American Bar Association. He served as president of the Wolverine Bar Association in 1979-80, the National Bar Association in 1983-84, and the State Bar of Michigan in 1984-85. He is a Life Member of the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation and the National Bar Association; a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers; and Life Member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference.

In 2000, Archer was named Public Official of the Year by Governing magazine. He received an Award of Excellence and was named 1998 Newsmaker of the Year by Engineering News-Record magazine, a sister publication of Business Week. In addition, Archer has been named one of the 25 most dynamic mayors in America by Newsweek magazine; one of the 100 Most Influential Black Americans by Ebony magazine; and one of the 100 Most Powerful Attorneys in the United States by the National Law Journal.

The Circle of Influence Diversity Awards are designed to recognize and reward a large company (100+ employees), a small company (1-99 employees) and an individual who, through their supplier hiring practices, diversity programs and individual efforts, clearly demonstrate their commitment to proactively pursuing further growth and development of minority and women-owned businesses and the spirit of diversity. The Chamber will also present the Duke Energy Citizenship & Service Award to an individual or group that exemplifies volunteer leadership and community service. These awards reflect the mission of the Multicultural Business & Professional Network, which brings together business and professional leaders from all cultural backgrounds in an effort to further enhance commerce and trade among these groups.



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Interested parties may register online at www.durhamchamber.org. For more information about the Circle of Influence Awards, contact Sheena Johnson at (919) 682-2133 ext. 230.

2008 Circle of Influence Nominees

Individual:

Garland Burton
Deborah Giles
Elaine Primus

Small Business:

Callis Contractors
The Carolina Theatre of Durham, Inc.
The Freelon Group, Inc.
M&F Bank

Large Business:

Manpower
Time Warner Cable
Triangle Transit
UNC-TV

Duke Energy Citizenship & Service Award:

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
Spencer Bradford
Wanda Boone
Toni Clarke
James Eaker
GlaxoSmithKline employees
Dan Hill III
Kaaren Johanson
Edith Rosenblatt
Kim Ruskan
Verizon Wireless employees

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