



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 19, 2008

**RICHMOND RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THREE FINALISTS FOR THE
ICW COMMUNITY COMPETITIVENESS AWARD**

Richmond, VA – The Institute for a Competitive Workforce (ICW), an affiliate of the US Chamber of Commerce, recently announced Richmond, Virginia as one of three finalists for their national 2008 Community Competitiveness award. The award recognizes communities that are able to showcase at least one successful and sustainable public-private partnership.

In order to be eligible for the award, each community was required to submit detailed information around their efforts to create educational and workforce development programs that augmented and enhanced the skills of their current and future workforce community. The Greater Richmond Chamber submitted the application on behalf of Richmond, and highlighted the development of educational initiatives such as the Success by 6 partnership, the Business First business retention partnership, the Chamber's Business Council Program and the Workforce Services Directory, as well as the Chamber's work on behalf of local businesses in the General Assembly on a variety of issues. Stephanie Kirksey, Executive VP, Programs & Services for the Chamber says, "We're very excited the Institute has recognized the partnerships that exist in our region, as well as the Greater Richmond Chamber's involvement in them. It's great to see businesses stepping up to the plate and getting involved."

A total of 16 communities across the country applied for the award. The 2008 finalists were:

- Richmond, VA
- Louisville, KY
- Spokane, WA

"Richmond set itself apart from other communities by implementing sustainable and successful programmatic and legislative reforms, ranging from early childhood education initiatives to the redesign of adult training programs," said Arthur J. Rothkopf, Senior Vice President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "We recognize these accomplishments could not have happened without leadership from organizations such as the Greater Richmond Chamber, the United Way of Greater Richmond and the Regional Workforce Development Task Force."

About the Chamber:

Since 1867, the Greater Richmond Chamber (www.GRCC.com) has taken the lead to enhance and institute change in the Richmond Region, making the region an ideal location for businesses to prosper. The Chamber, a not-for-profit business membership association with more than 2,000 members and a professional staff of 40, is a catalyst for business development and the voice of business in Greater Richmond.

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