



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inaugural Duke Energy LEAD Award Presented to Former Wilmington Chamber Chairman Hal Kitchin

Wilmington, N.C. —Hal Kitchin, 2013 Chairman of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, was presented the inaugural Leadership in Economic Advancement and Development (LEAD) Award by Duke Energy at the Chamber’s 148th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Feb.3. The award recognizes a deserving North Carolina business leader who has spent extraordinary time, effort, and talent preparing the community for job growth and investment in a competitive market.

“Rare is the citizen economic developer, who after giving so effectively, chooses to eschew the spotlight and allow others to take the credit,” said John Geib, Duke Energy’s Director of Economic Development , during his presentation of the award to Kitchin. “He derives his reward instead from the simple knowledge that members of his community will now have a job where before there wasn’t one.”

Kitchin is a partner in the law firm McGuireWoods LLP, where he concentrates his practice on business and real estate litigation and creditor’s rights matters. Among his work with the Wilmington Chamber, he lead an effort to revise the county’s zoning ordinance to better align with the competitive business climate of the southeastern United States. He was selected by local elected officials to serve on the New Hanover County Economic Development Initiative Steering Committee, a group tasked with assisting with the creation of economic development recommendations put forth by the recognized economic development strategist Jay Garner. Kitchin also chairs Cape Fear Future, the Chamber's flagship initiative whose mission is to further develop the region’s workforce to promote economic development and ensure continued prosperity for the region. In addition to his work with the Chamber, he serves on the Board of Trustees for the University of North Carolina Wilmington, helping to shape the direction of the institution which plays a key role in the economic vitality of the region.

A photo of Hal Kitchin and Duke Energy President & CEO Lynn Good at the presentation is attached.

About the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce is the largest membership-based business association in Southeastern North Carolina. The Chamber’s mission is to ensure economic prosperity throughout our region. This is accomplished by: creating a diverse, inclusive organization that serves as a strong voice for businesses in the Greater Wilmington area;

offering unique membership benefits, services and education; and challenging government officials to address long term community and business interests.

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