



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2015

Wilmington Chamber Presents Award to Film Commission

Wilmington, N.C. — The Wilmington Regional Film Commission has been selected by the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce to receive its 2015 Coastal Entrepreneur Award, in recognition of the continual evolution in the ways the Commission conducts business due to the ever-changing political climate. The award was presented today at the 2015 Coastal Entrepreneur Awards ceremony held at the Burney Center on the campus of UNCW.

The Wilmington Regional Film Commission is responsible for marketing the assets found within southeastern North Carolina to the production industry. The Commission serves as the absolute resource and clearing house for information about the Wilmington area, and assists with site location photography and regional scouting services; provides a location library; acts as a liaison with federal, state, county, and city agencies; and is a storehouse for logistical information on crews, studios, equipment, stages, and support services.

The Commission's success can easily be seen over the last three years, when productions spent more than \$500 million in the region. In addition to that economic impact, the Commission helps employ the 1,700 film crew members that live in the region by recruiting projects.

Last year the tumultuous political climate regarding film incentives and the change to a grant incentive program created a formidable obstacle for our area to compete with other states in attracting productions. The Commission adapts to the ever-changing political climate and employs the tools they are given. Film Commission Director Johnny Griffin continues to work diligently with elected officials and stakeholders to improve the incentive program, while continuing to market all of the other positive aspects that make this region an enviable location in which to film.

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.