



## **Wilmington Chamber Appoints New Interim CEO**

*New hire brings 35+ years of experience in chamber leadership, business development*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 28, 2016

**WILMINGTON, NC**—The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce today announced the appointment of a new interim CEO. Effective June 28, 2016, Richard “Dick” Blouse will join the Wilmington Chamber as interim CEO, filling the leadership role left vacant following the retirement of former president and CEO Connie Majure-Rhett in May.

“This is a great news for the Wilmington business community,” said Mitch Lamm, Wilmington Chamber Board Chairman. “Mr. Blouse’s unique skillset and proven leadership ability are just what the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce needs to build upon our legacy of success, and lead us with innovation into an even greater future.”

Blouse brings more than 35 years of experience in chamber of commerce leadership and economic development to this role, having served most recently as president and CEO of the Detroit Regional Chamber for 15 years, and before that as president and CEO of the Greenville (S.C.) Chamber of Commerce for four years.

Under his leadership, the Detroit Regional Chamber became the largest metropolitan chamber of commerce in the United States. During his tenure in Greenville, Blouse and his chamber were very involved and played a key role in successfully bringing BMW and its supplier companies to South Carolina. Today, in semi-retirement, he leads his own consulting firm, Global Perspectives LLC, specializing in strategy, economic and organizational development.

“Coming to this community to work with such a great team was an opportunity I couldn’t pass up. Wilmington is a wonderful place that offers an unbeatable quality of life,” said Blouse. “But it’s really much more than that. Strong businesses doing exciting work, a talented workforce, and so much opportunity for growth. I look forward to partnering with this business community as we help Wilmington reach its fullest potential.”

Blouse has extensive experience in implementing successful economic development initiatives in both the private and public sectors, forging strong partnerships, and attracting business investments in both the private and public sectors, domestically and internationally. He will play a pivotal role in the search process for the Wilmington Chamber’s next full-time president and CEO over the next several months.

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