



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2018

**United Airlines VP to Keynote Wilmington Chamber Annual Meeting
Eshelman to be Presented Lifetime Achievement in Business Award**

Wilmington, N.C.—Fresh off the announcement that United Airlines will begin flights out of Wilmington International Airport to Chicago O’Hare (ORD) and Washington Dulles (IAD) in April 2018, area business leaders will have the opportunity to hear why ILM was chosen for the new service from the official who made the decision. Grant Whitney, United Airlines’ vice president of Domestic Network Planning, will address attendees during the meeting held February 8th, from 5:30-8:00 pm at the Wilmington Convention Center (515 Nutt Street, Wilmington).

The new flights have been sought after by ILM. Washington Dulles, located nearby Washington, DC, is an international hub and offers a quick flight for those conducting business in the nation’s capital or traveling for leisure. Chicago O’Hare (ORD) is consistently ranked as a top destination for those that fly out of Wilmington, most recently ranking #5. ORD offers convenient connections to those traveling to the west coast and internationally, as well as being a great vacation destination.

In addition to Mr. Whitney’s address, the Chamber will present the 1st Annual Wilmington Lifetime Achievement in Business Award to PPD and Furiex Pharmaceuticals Founder Fred Eshelman, who will be in attendance to accept the award.

2017 Chamber Chairman Charlie Mattox (BB&T) and Chamber President & CEO Natalie English will review accomplishments over the past year and elements of the Chamber’s newly adopted strategic plan. 2018 Chairman and NHRMC President & CEO John Gizdic will share his vision and the Chamber’s areas of focus for the upcoming year. A reception will follow the business portion of the Annual Meeting.

First National Bank is the Presenting Sponsor for the Chamber’s 151st Annual Meeting. Attendance is open to Wilmington Chamber of Commerce members at a cost of \$65 per person. Attendance for non-Chamber members will be available on a space-available basis at the same cost. Non-members should call Megan Canny, member services director, at 910.762.2611 ext. 202 or canny@wilmingtonchamber.org for reservations.

Registration for Chamber members is available online at <http://www.cvent.com/d/0tq4b3/4W>.

Media interested in attending the Chamber Annual Meeting should RSVP to Scott Czechlewski at 910.762.2611 ext. 216 or czechlewski@wilmingtonchamber.org.