



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HILLSBOROUGH/ORANGE COUNTY CHAMBER APPOINTS NEW CEO**

Hillsborough, NC — The board of directors of the Hillsborough/Orange County (NC) Chamber of Commerce has named Scott Czechlewski as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He will be responsible for management of the organization and staff; generating innovative ideas for programming and events; promotion of the Chamber and member businesses; and increasing advocacy efforts for economic development and quality of life initiatives in northern Orange County.

Czechlewski served as the communications director for the Wilmington (NC) Chamber of Commerce for 15 years, and as the director of the Leadership Wilmington program for three years. During his tenure, he created an award-winning re-branding campaign for the Wilmington Chamber under the tagline *Your Advocate*, and worked with Richard Florida's creative action team, Catalytix, on the launch of the Cape Fear Future knowledge sector workforce development initiative. He served on the communications team for a three-county regional economic branding initiative, Choose Cape Fear. Czechlewski managed the publication of three Regional Economic Scorecards comparing Wilmington to cities viewed as competition for jobs, talent and start-ups. In his role as Leadership Wilmington director, he provided overall management of the class project, Work On Wilmington, that involved hundreds of volunteers throughout the community completing hands-on projects in a half-day at 25+ area non-profits.

Czechlewski spent five years working at the City of Wilmington in the Public Information Office and as the Assistant to the Mayor and Council. During his time in Atlanta and New York, he worked as a book editor at the former Longstreet Press and as a book jacket copywriter at Pocket Books (Simon & Schuster). Czechlewski spent his childhood in Burlington, NC and is a graduate of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism.

"I'm excited to engage with the business community and area stakeholders to determine where the Hillsborough/Orange County Chamber can best provide its support for growing a strong business climate and improving quality of life in the area," Czechlewski said. "Shutdowns due to Covid presented a number of significant challenges for the Chamber, and my most-immediate goals will include rebuilding membership to pre-pandemic levels, and reviving former—and introducing new—events, programs and services to meet the needs of our members. I look forward to furthering the mission of the Chamber and increasing our visibility as an advocate for the region."

Czechlewski is taking the place of former Hillsborough Chamber CEO Kim Tesoro, who is transitioning to a limited role in the organization for health reasons, as part of a succession plan to aid in the onboarding of the new CEO, and to focus on her passion for advocacy. She will concentrate her efforts as a liaison with area governments, working on public policy issues to strengthen the Chamber's mission to be the voice of business in the Hillsborough region.

### **About the HOCCOC:**

The Hillsborough/Orange County Chamber of Commerce is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1966. The Chamber is the primary voice for member-business development and economic growth through the use of innovative community collaboration in Hillsborough, northern Orange County, and

the surrounding areas. Hillsborough prides itself on being the oldest town in the Triangle, founded in 1754. To this day, it maintains its roots as the seat of local government for Orange County. With close proximity to Durham, Chapel Hill, Raleigh, and the Research Triangle Park (RTP), it is an ideal location for those who desire to live and work in a quaint, historic town while also having access to the benefits of three major cities within a twenty-minute drive.

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