

For Immediate Release



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August 18, 2011

New Space Coast Disability Chamber Holds First Formal Event

Rockledge, Florida – John Lipinski, Chief Executive Officer of the newly founded Space Coast Disability Chamber (SCDC) and the SCDC Board has announced the first formal networking event and membership drive. The SCDC location is accessible by people with disabilities.

It will be held on **Monday, August 29 from 5:30-7:30, at the offices of SCDC at 201 Bougainvillea Drive in Rockledge** (corner of US1 and Bougainvillea Drive, several blocks south of the US1/520 intersection). Entertainment, hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be provided, and everyone attending will have the opportunity to vote online to help the SCDC get votes toward a \$25,000 Pepsi Grant for which the chamber has applied. (Every individual can vote daily multiple times via Facebook, the Pepsi site, and by getting "power votes" from specially marked Pepsi products. More information is available at www.scdisabilitychamber.com.) This event is open to any individuals and organizations who have an interest in helping the over 100,000 disabled adults in Brevard County and the Space Coast area.

During the networking event and membership drive on August 29, anyone submitting their membership application and payment will pay only \$165/year (normally \$175/year). If an individual joining is a member of another chamber in the area, they will pay only \$140/year (normally \$150/year). Information about other annual sponsorships and membership levels of investment will also be available on August 29, or by calling Dennis Watkins, Membership Director, at (321) 507-4740.

The Space Coast Disability Chamber is a county wide chamber focused on the economic potential and sustainability of people with disabilities. The SCDC is forming strong partnerships and affiliations with local businesses and community organizations while at the same time effectively representing disability issues. The SCDC is working to provide sound solutions to these pressing issues.

The SCDC is a unique concept with national growth potential. To the business community, it will provide a tailored business resource designed to increase the economic viability and influence of people with disabilities in Brevard County. For the non-profit community, the

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SCDC will focus on representing the economic and business interests of people with disabilities at the local, state and national levels.

“The mission of the Space Coast Disability Chamber is to provide tailored services, income opportunities and education. Our goal is to enhance the lives of people with disabilities, including veterans and seniors with special needs. We operate in a partnership with businesses and community organizations that share our vision,” says Lipinski. “Currently, **our chamber is the only organization in the southeast that provides a national network of disability businesses**. Yet, there is a growing demand from the government and business communities to purchase from disability businesses. The SCDC will provide a list of disability businesses that will satisfy this demand.”

Individuals with disabilities have historically had a high unemployment rate. The SCDC will make the formation and growth of disability businesses less of a challenge, so that persons with disabilities have increased opportunities to become self-employed.

According to Lipinski, “starting and growing a business takes a significant amount of time and energy. Persons with disabilities spend a significant amount of time and energy overcoming their disabilities. Direct caregivers do likewise helping these individuals. The SCDC will help significantly reduce the time and energy needed to form and grow a business through its resources and the internal and external marketing of its members.”

The formation of the Space Coast Disability Chamber exemplifies what Hilda L. Solis, Secretary of Labor, expressed on Tuesday, May 31, 2011: “Workers with disabilities suffer from one of the lowest unemployment rates of any group in the American population, even in times of prosperity. It is vital that state and local agencies work together with private sector partners to improve these statistics . . . and expand the Disability Initiative.”

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www.scdisabilitychamber.com

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