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The Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce and the Pathways to Possibilities Steering Committee has voted to reschedule its Economic Development Summit scheduled from September 10th 2008 to the first quarter of next year.

While all the data has been collected, the groups believed that a more extensive education campaign is needed to ensure that the community at large is engaged in the process. The group plans to utilize a variety of mediums such as the media, speeches at local groups and other means to educate the community on how economic development works so there are no false or unrealistic expectations on the end product.

“In my 23 years of economic development experience, I have seen too many communities try to be something they are not or try to become something they will never be,” said Douglas Peters, President and CEO of the Chamber. “I believe that to move forward the community must develop a model that will best use its strengths, minimize its weaknesses, capitalize on its overwhelming opportunities and eliminate its threats. I believe a little education on how economies work will go a long way as a precursor to a widely- supported community plan and the definition of success.”

About Pathways to Possibilities

This project is a community-wide planning process to involve a broad cross-section of the community in establishing a vision for the future of economic development in Cumberland County. The purpose of this effort was to produce an economic development action plan that will help to position Cumberland County for growth recognizing the economic, social and demographic trends of today and projected over the next 10 years.

About the Chamber

The Chamber of Commerce strives to improve quality of life by creating wealth, jobs and investment in our community. With its partners the City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County, the Chamber coordinates the community’s economic and downtown development efforts as well as provides a number of opportunities to grow local businesses.

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