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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHAMBER ANNOUNCES 2012 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS

SHAWNEE, Kan. December, 2011 – The Shawnee Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce leadership for the 2012 Board of Directors of the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce. The following officers terms begin January 1, 2012:

- Steve Hale, Vice President, Director of Marketing, Brotherhood Bank & Trust - 2012 Chairman of the Board of Directors
- Justin Nichols, Associate, Lathrop & Gage LLP - Chair-Elect
- Kirk Gutekunst, Senior Vice President, Consumer Product Development, UMB Bank - Treasurer
- Jack Wagner, CFO, Shawnee Mission Medical Center - Past Chair
- Linda Leeper, President | CEO, Shawnee Chamber of Commerce

“The can-do attitude of this Board of Directors gives me great confidence the Shawnee Chamber will remain a leader in helping an already strong community become even better,” said incoming Chairman Steve Hale, Brotherhood Bank & Trust. “Look for this to be an engaged Board that takes a hands-on approach in helping Shawnee businesses grow and prosper.”

Hale has been with Brotherhood Bank & Trust for six years as Vice President, Director of Marketing. He is responsible for overall marketing, external communications and community outreach for the bank. Hale has served on the Shawnee Chamber board since 2009.

The following members have been elected as new 2012 Board Directors by the membership:

- Danielle Browning, KCP&L
- Pam Cooper, The UPS Store
- Stefan Freeman, Bayer Healthcare LLC, Animal Health
- Shannon O’Doherty, Commerce Bank

“I am thrilled to have such exceptional individuals join the Board,” said Leeper. “The expertise of these directors will help guide the Chamber, set important policies, and help fulfill our mission to develop and enhance our community through dynamic business leadership.”

The four new Board Directors replace Pat Daniels, The Land Source; Patricia Lyles, State Farm Insurance; John Miller, Lake Quivira Country Club; and Kim Pearse, GBA-Architects and Engineers, whose terms expired. Chamber President | CEO Linda Leeper said the four have been truly instrumental in the Chamber’s growth.

“We are very fortunate to have had leaders of this caliber serve on our board,” said Leeper. “During their tenure, they were more than willing to step up to support the many Chamber projects, and we appreciate their willingness to lead various tasks forces and special committees.”

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The new Board Directors join the following Board Directors who are continuing their terms:

- Clifton Alexander, REACTOR
- Tom Coffman, Deffenbaugh Industries
- Tim Harmon, Harmon Construction, Inc.
- David Herndon, First State Bank
- Dr. Gene Johnson, Shawnee Mission School District
- Leon Logan, Leon Logan, CPA, P.A.
- Jeff Meyers, Mayor, City of Shawnee
- Dr. Doug Sumner, Unified School District #232
- Donna Zimmerman, Special Olympics Kansas

The full board will be installed in January by guest Jim Allen, Johnson County Commissioner, former Chairman and former Shawnee Mayor. The 2011 Board and their successes will be celebrated at the Chamber's Annual Dinner Jan. 28 at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel, where the incoming 2012 Chairman of the Board will also be welcomed.

"The talent and experience of these members, and those members returning to the Board, will be critical to the Chamber's success this upcoming year and beyond," said Leeper. "Thank you to all for your service and commitment to the Shawnee Chamber."

About the Chamber:

Established in 1946, the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization that works to preserve the best possible business climate and quality of life for Shawnee. With over 650 business members, the Shawnee Chamber Corporation (501C6) includes two divisions: the Economic Development Council, and the Convention and Visitor's Bureau. For more information, contact us at 913.631.6545 or visit our website at www.goodstartshere.com.

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