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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Southern Pines* - Elyse C. Hillegass, President/CEO of the Moore County Chamber of Commerce since August 2003 has announced her resignation effective January 27, 2006 to become President/CEO of the Gaston Chamber of Commerce, Gastonia, North Carolina. Gastonia is located approximately 20 miles southwest of Charlotte.

Hillegass stated "this decision was very difficult as I have enjoyed serving the Moore County Chamber of Commerce and the community. The Gaston County Chamber of Commerce position is a great professional opportunity for me and also places me within three hours from the Atlanta area where my extended family resides."

Hillegass says, "I appreciate the support of the Moore County Chamber Boards of Directors, businesses from across the county, as well as the talented and wonderfully capable staff."

Stephen Later, 2005 Chairman of the Board, says "The Chamber and Moore County will miss Elyse and her dedication. Though we wish we weren't losing her, of course, we certainly wish her the best in Gaston County."

"The Chamber Board, after considering several options has retained the executive search services of Bob Rodgers, President of Quantum Search ([www.quantumsearch.com](http://www.quantumsearch.com)) to find a new President/CEO. The search committee selected Quantum Search to help us identify and attract great candidates for the position," stated Andy Honeycutt, 2006 Chairman of the Board. "Elyse has made a tremendous positive impact to the Moore County Chamber and has positioned us well for serving our members in 2006. The new President/CEO will be coming into a very strong organization," he said. According to Honeycutt, oversight of the Chamber's daily operations will be managed by Cynthia Bradley who currently serves as the Executive Vice-President.

The Moore County Chamber promotes lifestyles and commerce interests of over 860 members throughout Moore and surrounding counties. For over thirty-nine years, businesses have relied on the Moore County Chamber of Commerce to represent the interests of the business community.