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## CHAMBER INSTALLS NEW LEADERSHIP AT 127<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

*Presents H.L. Culbreath Jr. Profile in Leadership Award to James L. Ferman Jr., Announces Startup Scholars*

Tampa, Fla. – The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce marked its 127<sup>th</sup> anniversary at its Annual Meeting on Thursday, December 13 at the Tampa Convention Center. More than 650 attendees celebrated the Chamber’s 2012 achievements. 2012 Chamber Chair Chuck Black of Black & Black Consulting Services passed the gavel to 2013 Chair Gregory Celestan of Celestar Corporation.

Celestan offered a preview of the Chamber’s priorities in 2013 which include focusing on continuing to support MacDill Air Force Base, strengthen the Chamber’s advocacy efforts on behalf of the business community, continue to support innovation in the Tampa area through our Startup Scholars program and finding ways to support local entrepreneurs and continuing to collaborate with our local economic development partners.

Celestan also introduced the Chamber’s 2013 Executive Committee Members, including:

Chair-Elect	Robin DeLaVergne	Tampa General Hospital
Treasurer	Ronald Christaldi, Esq.	Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP
Finance Co-Chair	Sandra W. Callahan	TECO Energy, Inc.
Finance Co-Chair	Susan Stackhouse	Stellar Partners
Community Development Co-Chair	Mike Griffin	Vertical Integration
Community Development Co-Chair	Corey Neil	The Bank of Tampa
Innovation Leadership Chair	Wendy Bowman	Florida Blue
Innovation Leadership Chair	Bill Carlson	Tucker/Hall, Inc.
Marketing Chair	Bruce Faulmann	Tampa Bay Times
Membership Development Co-Chair	Guy King III	M.E. Wilson Co., Inc.
Membership Development Co-Chair	Joseph Meterchick	PNC Bank
Military Co-Chair	Jon Bayless	Tandel Systems
Military Co-Chair	Chase Stockon	Panther International
Programs Co-Chair	Peter Anderson	Bayshore Technologies
Programs Co-Chair	Doug Pace	Bayshore Solutions
Public Policy Co-Chair	Vincent J. Cassidy	Majesty Title Services
Public Policy Co-Chair	Lee Nelson	Shutts & Bowen LLP
Legal Counsel	Steven Bernstein, Esq.	Fisher & Phillips

The Chamber also presented the 2012 H.L. Culbreath Jr. Profile in Leadership Award to James L. Ferman, Jr. The award, established in 1997 by Leadership Tampa Alumni, a program of the Chamber, is presented annually by the Chamber to recognize an individual whose leadership made a positive impact within the greater Tampa community.

CEO and President of Ferman Motor Car Company, Inc. and its affiliated dealerships, Ferman is past Chairman of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and its Committee of 100, past President of the Tampa Museum of Art and past Chairman of The Florida Aquarium. Ferman is also a past Chairman and Campaign Chairman of the United Way of Hillsborough County (now United Way Suncoast) and past Director of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. He currently serves as Chairman of The Bank of Tampa, a director of TECO Energy, Inc. and on the Board of Trustees of The University of Tampa.

In addition to the announcement of the 2013 Executive Committee and H.L. Culbreath Jr. Profile in Leadership Award winner, the Chamber announced its first class of Startup Scholars. The three program participants were selected from 29 applicants, which was narrowed down to eight finalists who participated in a Finalist Pitch Day to share details about their

respective companies and what they hoped to gain from the program. The three Startup Scholars are market intelligence company [C2I Intel](#), social network [Eyecrawler, Inc.](#), and baby bottle converter [Refresh-A-Baby](#).

For more information on the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, please visit [www.tampachamber.com](http://www.tampachamber.com).

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