



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1st, 2025

Wake Forest Area Chamber Celebrates Growth, Honors Community Leaders at 77th Annual State of the Chamber

Wake Forest, NC – The Wake Forest Area Chamber hosted its 77th Annual State of the Chamber event on June 27, 2025, bringing together business leaders, elected officials, and community partners for a dynamic evening celebrating progress, partnerships, and the people shaping Wake Forest’s economic future.

Held at the Sutherland, the sold-out event highlighted the Chamber’s accomplishments over the past year, unveiled strategic priorities for the year ahead, and honored standout businesses and individuals with annual Chamber Awards.

Jim Thompson, CAE, IOM, Chamber President, opened the evening with reflections on how the Chamber is championing business growth, advocating for local interests, and enhancing member engagement. Thompson also focused on the future of the chamber and focusing on bigger and better initiatives over the next year, “There’s a reason the

windshield is bigger than the rearview mirror, because we should spend more time looking forward," Thompson said.

Award Winners Celebrated

The evening recognized several standout contributors to the Wake Forest business community:

- Business Leader of the Year: [Merritt Properties, LLC](#)
- Volunteer of the Year: [Bella Torres](#)
- Small Business of the Year: [Lighthouse Chiropractic and Wellness: Pediatric, Pre-Natal & Family Care](#)
- Best New Business: [Broadsides & Brews](#)
- Community Catalyst: [Wake Technical Community College](#)
- Partnership Award: [SignCraft Solutions](#)

Top 10 Investors:

[Southern Lux Living, Allison Caudle Abbott, Realtor](#)

[North State Bank](#)

[Hartsfield and Nash Insurance Agency, Inc.](#)

[Stored Technology Solutions, inc.](#)

[Cameron Family CPAs](#)

[Wake Skin Cancer Center](#)

[Pinnacle Financial Partners](#)

[Wake Electric](#)

[Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary](#)

[Town of Wake Forest, NC](#)

These individuals and organizations represent the heart of Wake Forest, community engagement, and economic vitality.

Sponsors and Support

The event was made possible thanks to the support of our sponsors:

Presenting: [Focus Design Builders, LLC](#)

Hospitality: [Cameron Family CPAs](#)

Community: [Town of Wake Forest, NC](#)

Host: [The Sutherland, Estate & Gardens](#)

Bar: [POUR Bar Services](#)

After Party: [Broadsides & Brews](#)

Wine: [The Heritage Grille & Wine Barrel](#)

Beer: [Blackbird Brewery](#)

Dessert: [Nothing Bundt Cakes](#)

Looking Ahead

As the Chamber embarks on a new fiscal year, strategic initiatives will focus on things like community engagement, small business support, government affairs, and leadership development workshops. For more information on upcoming Chamber programs and membership, visit www.wakeforestchamber.org.



Pictured Above (left to right):
Chamber President Jim
Thompson, LightHouse
Chiropractic Team: Dr. Jessica
and Dr. Gabe.



Pictured Above (left to right):
Pinnacle Financial Partners:
Mark Marley, Shyrl Wood,
Chamber President Jim
Thompson, Nancy Gray.



Pictured Above: Presenting Sponsor, Jonathan Williams of Focus Design Builders



Pictured Above (left to right): Tyler Cameron of Cameron Family CPAs, Chamber President Jim Thompson, Jenna Cameron of Cameron Family CPAs