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For Immediate Release

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HAMPTON ROADS CHAMBER PROFESSIONAL RECEIVES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

GORDONSVILLE, VA – Sylvia Haines, CCE, Executive Vice President, Operations of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, was selected as the **2026 Chamber Executive of the Year** by the Virginia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (VACCE). Haines was recognized during VACCE's Awards Dinner held August 27 in Gordonsville.

The **Chamber Executive of the Year Award** recognizes outstanding performance in the field of Chamber of Commerce management in the Commonwealth of Virginia and is presented to an individual who has exhibited the characteristics that make them a leader both within their Chamber and community. Outstanding achievements, effectiveness in addressing challenges, professionalism, program development and implementation, fiscal management, stature in the community, and other special qualities are considered during the nomination process.

During nearly four decades of service to the Hampton Roads Chamber, Haines has played an integral role in helping shape the organization while providing strategic leadership across virtually every area of Chamber operations. Her professionalism, institutional knowledge, operational expertise and exceptional fiscal stewardship have contributed significantly to the Chamber's continued growth, strength and long-term sustainability.

Haines has also made a lasting impact through her leadership of LEAD757, the Chamber's regional civic leadership program. Under her leadership, the program has experienced significant growth and renewed energy, with enhanced programming and a stronger emphasis on servant leadership and community engagement. Her commitment to developing leaders extends well beyond graduation, as she continues to mentor, encourage and connect program alumni throughout their leadership journeys.

Her years of dedicated service, commitment to developing others and unwavering professionalism embodies the very best of the chamber profession. Congratulations Sylvia on this well-deserved recognition!

VACCE is an alliance of Chamber of Commerce professionals from across the state working together to improve the business climate in Virginia while developing ways to enhance the quality of life in the communities they serve. VACCE is the only organization in the state dedicated to the growth and development of Chamber professionals.

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