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PHILLIPS ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION AS SOUTHLAKE CHAMBER PRESIDENT & CEO

Southlake, Texas –

After eight and a half years at the Southlake Chamber of Commerce's helm, President and CEO Giovanna Phillips announced her resignation from the organization effective at the end of 2009. The timing allows the Chamber's current Chairman Brad Cavnar, incoming 2010 chairman Jill Clifton, and Phillips the opportunity to implement a streamlined succession plan that will benefit the Chamber.

Phillips said, "I've taken a lot of pride in serving as the Chamber's President over the years, as well as the many things accomplished in both the Chamber and the Southlake community. While my primary focus has been on supporting area businesses, I've had the pleasure of building relationships with tremendous people, many of which will continue for years to come."

She gives thanks to the numerous people who were a part of her success in the community, in particular Randall McCauley who was Chairman in 2001 when she was hired and Brad Cavnar, Chairman in 2009, the year in which she leaves. "The list goes on and on of the people who have influenced me over the years," she added. Other notables include Chair-Elect Jill Clifton with whom Phillips was looking forward to working, Mark Guilbert who will serve as Chair-Elect in 2010, and Commissioner Gary Fickes of whom she became a huge fan when he served as Chamber Chairman in 2003.

Phillips' goal is to spend more time with her family, including her three children. Phillips said, "Two of my three children were born during my tenure at the Chamber. People still say they remember when my baby was born, but they're actually talking about my eight-year-old! My real 'baby' is now three, and my oldest is a teenager. It's time to shift my primary focus and ensure my priorities are where they need to be."

In 2007, Phillips and her family moved to Mansfield, Texas from Arlington, Texas. She immediately got involved in her community and was elected to the City's Parks Facilities Development Corporation. She's also active in her children's schools and serves on the PTA board and is ready to take on an even more active role within the community she calls home.

Phillips says leaving Southlake isn't an easy decision. She even touts a Carroll Dragons sticker on the back of her car, something a Board member adhered for her one day without her knowledge. Being proud of Southlake and the meaning of the Dragon, it's been there since that day over two years ago.

Outgoing Chairman Brad Cavnar said, "Selfishly, I'd love to tell Giovanna to stay, but I know that she has to do what's in her family's best interest. Serving as the Southlake Chamber Chairman on two separate occasions, I've seen first-hand the time commitment of the President position. As we've grown over the years, so too, have the demands of the job."

Most recently under Phillips' watch, the Chamber implemented One Stop Shop Southlake, a shop local initiative aimed at keeping Southlake dollars local, and a program of which she's very proud. Shoppers seeing the program logo in local storefronts will recognize Phillips making one last mark on the community to which she's been committed since 2001.

Other accomplishments over the past eight years include:

- Being the first chamber executive in Northeast Tarrant County to receive her Institute for Organization Management certification
- More than tripling the Chamber's annual operating budget from \$200,000 to \$650,000 annually
- Working on legislation to exempt chambers of commerce from property tax
- Securing a substantial land donation for a future building project
- Receiving numerous awards for Chamber's branding, website, and publications
- Being recognized as a top chamber in the country for membership sales and retention
- Creating a tiered membership investment schedule and being one of the first chambers in the area providing choice to members
- Being the first chamber in North Texas to implement a health coalition
- Serving or served on:
 - American Chamber of Commerce Executives advisory board
 - Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives board
 - North Texas Chambers of Commerce Executives Association board
 - Southlake Rotary President
 - Miss Southlake Scholarship Pageant board
- Increasing regional efforts among area chambers, including the first joint Leadership Colleyville/Southlake class, quarterly roundtables for key chamber leaders, and joint luncheons and mixers

The Chamber's Board of Directors will hold its annual planning retreat in December, at which time visioning for the future of the Chamber as well as the next President will take place. Chair-Elect Jill Clifton said, "Our entire Board wishes Giovanna the best of luck in this new phase of her life. As a new mother, I can personally attest to the challenges of being a working mom. Giovanna's served us well, and I know that she's up to the task of any new endeavors before her."

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