



NEWS RELEASE

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Forum offers expert economic outlook for tri-county area

GEORGETOWN COUNTY, S.C. — Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments will bring together a panel of local and national experts to participate in a Regional Economic Outlook Forum on March 19 in Litchfield. The event will give leaders in business, industry and government from throughout Horry, Georgetown and Williamsburg counties an important look at economic trends and projections and the impact they may have for the Waccamaw Region.

Sponsored by Waccamaw Regional's Economic Outlook Board, with support from the Waccamaw Workforce Investment Board, the forum will be from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort. Registration is required.

The event is a resurrection of a tradition the board carried out annually until several years ago. Recognizing its value to the communities it serves, the current board made the decision to again make the economic outlook forum an annual tradition beginning in 2014.

"We're excited to have this event back and to be able to get quality speakers to come in and share their insight. That's going to be extremely beneficial to business and governmental leaders in the counties we serve," said Tom Britton, planning director for Waccamaw Regional and an organizer for the forum. Invitations have already started going out and Britton said he expects a good turnout from leaders in a range of sectors.

Keynote speaker for the event will be Dr. Bruce Yandle, Dean Emeritus of Clemson University's College of Business and Behavioral Sciences. He is also an alumni distinguished professor of economics emeritus at Clemson, and distinguished adjunct professor of economics with George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. He lectures regularly in George Mason's Capitol Hill program and served on the White House staff during the Ford and Carter administrations. He was executive director of the Federal Trade Commission during the Reagan administration and was a member and chairman of South Carolina's State Board of Economic Advisors. Additionally, Yandle served as a member and chairman of the board of trustees of Spartanburg Methodist College. In 2012, he received the Adam Smith Award from the Association of Private Enterprise Education for his career-long leadership in promoting the free enterprise

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system. His quarterly newsletter, "The Economic Situation," is distributed by Clemson and George Mason universities.

The forum will also feature Dr. Rob Salvino of Coastal Carolina University, who will give a regional economic forecast, and Richard Kaglic, senior economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Va. There will be a panelist discussion on "Workforce and the Regional Economy." Panelists include Brian Tucker, who is director of economic development for Georgetown County, Brad Lofton of the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation and Stan Williamson of Santee Electric Cooperative, in addition to Salvino and Kaglic.

For more information about the forum, the Economic Outlook Board or Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments, visit www.wrcog.org, or contact Tom Britton, (843) 546-8502 or tbritton@wrcog.org.

Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments

Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments is an agency that fosters inter-governmental cooperation and innovative partnership for the communities within the three-county region it serves. That region includes Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg counties. Created in 1969, Waccamaw Regional is a link between county governments, municipalities and residents. Its expansive range of services help local governments make and implement joint regional decisions, and identify and solve problems best addressed at the regional level, in addition to providing much needed services for community residents. Its main areas of service include transportation, services for senior citizens, economic and community development, and workforce development. Visit wrcog.org for more information.

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