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SALUTE TO TOURISM AND 3rd ANNUAL GOLDEN TOURISM AWARDS

Jonesboro, Ga. - Joining more than 50 communities nationwide, Clayton County's hospitality community and local elected officials gathered on Tuesday, May 10 to celebrate National Tourism Week with the 3rd Annual Golden Tourism Awards.

Hosted by the Clayton County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CCCVB), the Golden Tourism Awards celebrated the economic impact of Clayton County's tourism industry, as well as, local community members who have shown exemplary support for the county's hospitality industry. The CCCVB released statistics sharing that Clayton County's tourism products and services generated 29,800 hospitality related jobs in 2010 that amounted to \$1.682 billion paid in payroll. The CCCVB also unveiled a check totaling \$956.45 million representative of the economic impact generated by Clayton County's tourism products and services over the last year.

"Tourism continues to be a big economic engine for Clayton county," said Patrick Duncan, president and CEO of the Clayton County Convention & Visitors Bureau. "The latest economic impact results show that gross receipts of our tourism product provide jobs and economic stimulus that are vital to our community. "

As a grand finale to the event, the CCCVB presented "Golden Tourism" awards to three recipients who provided outstanding attitude, willingness, and support of the Clayton County tourism industry. 2011 Golden Tourism Award winners included General Manager of the Suburban Extended Stay Hotel, Chris Phillips; publisher of the Clayton News Daily, Bonnie Pratt; and Jonesboro City Councilwoman, Pat Sebo.

The awards ceremony was hosted as part of the nationwide celebration of National Tourism Week, May 7-15, 2011. An opportunity to champion the power of travel, National Tourism Week encourages tourism entities, governments and businesses to promote the message that "Tourism Matters."

The Clayton County Convention & Visitors Bureau is the official tourism marketing agency for Clayton County. The CVB advertises and promotes the area to bring business to hotels, attractions, historical sites and meeting facilities within Clayton County and its neighboring communities.

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