

NEWS FROM

The Lebanon Community Vision Committee

For Immediate Release

Media contact:

Kelly Wright

317-730-6634

kellywright66@sbcglobal.net

Boone County Chamber names Michelle Wiltermood Executive Director

LEBANON (Feb. 18, 2009) – Michelle Wiltermood of Lebanon has been named executive director of the Boone County Chamber of Commerce after serving as the chamber’s administrative coordinator for four years. She replaces Hope Kamalabad, who resigned in November due to a move from the area.

Wiltermood has a unique understanding of the community and businesses and is excited to serve businesses and the community to help create a better Boone County. She will oversee the chamber’s communications efforts as well as public policy and political involvement in and around Boone County. Her familiarity with the organization and the people and places in Boone County will make her transition into a new role a smooth one.

“Michelle has an obvious passion for and extensive knowledge about Boone County business,” said Curtis Wood, the chamber board president. “Her desire to help create a positive and proactive business environment will undoubtedly lead to a stronger business climate and future development in the community.”

Wiltermood’s immediate plans as executive director include continuing all programming, networking, training events, workshops and seminars for the chamber, as well as fostering the growth of new downtown development groups in Lebanon and Thorntown. Another downtown development group in Whitestown will get her time and attention too. “These revitalization groups are working diligently to create an environment for better business and a better community,” Wiltermood said.

“I’d like to help the chamber continue to grow from its current 300 members,” Wiltermood said. “To do that, the chamber needs to educate businesses on the importance of community involvement. The stronger a business’ ties are within its community, the stronger the business alliance becomes. We encourage local referrals to all of our members.”

Jeff Tribbett, president of the Lebanon Community Vision Committee, said: “The chamber is an integral part of our community, and having Michelle as executive director will help nurture the type of business climate needed for our continued growth and development.”

Under Wiltermood's direction, the chamber plans to continue all existing programs, including several member networking opportunities each month. Business Over Coffee meetings are held at 8 a.m. on the first Tuesday at The Cottage on Pearl, 113 N. Pearl St., Thorntown, and at 8 a.m. on the third Tuesday at Eagle Creek Coffee Company, 10 S. Main St., Zionsville. The chamber's monthly member luncheon is the second Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at Ulen Country Club, 100 Country Club Drive, Lebanon. Speakers are invited to attend and present different topics to help chamber members in their businesses.

Recently, the chamber began offering business counseling with the Indiana Small Business Development Corp. Confidential appointments are free to anyone needing business advice or start-up consultation. Call the chamber at 765-482-1320 for an appointment.

Before joining the chamber, Wiltermood worked with Boone County Mental Health in an administrative role. Wiltermood also has years of advertising and marketing experience with a graphic design firm. At the chamber, she is recruiting an administrative coordinator to help with the office duties and event planning.