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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Greater Tucson Leadership to Become Program of Tucson Metro Chamber

TUCSON, AZ (January 2, 2012) – The board of directors of Greater Tucson Leadership (GTL) and Tucson Metro Chamber (Chamber) jointly announce that effective January 1, 2012, they joined forces in a collaborative partnership.

Renowned for its flagship leadership development program, GTL will continue to offer its existing leadership program that provides current and future community leaders with in-depth perspectives on the social, political and business systems of Tucson and Pima County. Partnering with the Chamber will increase GTL's ability to market and communicate its leadership program under the administrative umbrella of the Chamber's operations. The GTL organization will continue as a separate legal entity and maintain its 501(c)(3) status and board of directors.

According to Suzanne McFarlin, President of the GTL board of directors, "The GTL Governing Board decided to partner with the Tucson Metro Chamber to amplify the organization's positive influence on the community. GTL will be more effective in leveraging resources and conveying our mission of inspiring, developing and promoting leadership throughout the Tucson region."

Leadership programs across the country frequently operate as an extension of the local chamber of commerce. The GTL leadership program was originally founded as a program of the Chamber but was spun off as an independent organization in 1986. Since that time the program has continued to bring together people of all ages and from all sectors as part of its nonpartisan platform of personal and professional development.

Michael Varney, Chamber president & CEO, stated, "The GTL leadership development program has been a springboard of professional development for many of our community's leaders. This agreement allows GTL and the Chamber to combine efforts, providing a stronger approach to publicizing the GTL program and encouraging companies to incorporate it into their training schedules for executives. This leadership development builds a sense of community awareness and in turn builds a stronger community for us all to live and work in."

About Greater Tucson Leadership

For the past 31 years, Greater Tucson Leadership has provided nonpartisan leadership education programs, community development and civic engagement opportunities for the overall care of and commitment to improving the immediate and surrounding greater Tucson area communities. Since 1980, more than 800 participants have graduated from the program, using their skills to make a positive impact on the community. Application information for the 2012 GTL leadership program enrollment will be available this coming January.

About Tucson Metro Chamber

The mission of the Tucson Metro Chamber is to promote a strong local economy. The Tucson Metro Chamber is a membership-based business advocacy and networking organization that represents more than 1,350 businesses, employing more than 105,000 employees in the Greater Tucson area. Small business makes up approximately 85 percent of Chamber membership, which mirrors the overall Tucson area business community.

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