



Mark Sanford
Governor

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Joe E. Taylor, Jr.
Secretary

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kara Borie, S.C. Dept. of Commerce, 803.737.1998

Lexington County Business Leader Honored by Gov. Sanford and DOC

COLUMBIA, S.C. – September 15, 2008 – Timothy “Tim” M. Heskett was honored as Ambassadors for Economic Development by Gov. Mark Sanford and the Department of Commerce as part of South Carolina’s 18th Annual Industry Appreciation Week. The ceremony took place in Columbia on Monday, September 15 at the Governor’s Mansion Complex and highlighted 49 individuals from 46 counties for their exceptional efforts to bolster community and economic development activities in South Carolina.

“From day one, we have been committed to bettering the business environment to encourage economic growth among existing business and attract new investments to South Carolina. Fundamental reforms like workers’ comp reform, tort reform and income tax relief have increased our state’s competitive edge and provided fertile ground for businesses to grow, invest and create jobs here. Our state’s successes could not be achieved without the help and efforts of community and business leaders in every corner of the state and today we say thank to these ambassadors for economic development for their efforts to create jobs and economic opportunity in South Carolina,” said Gov. Mark Sanford.

Golden State Foods had plans to close the Lexington County facility in 2007 and incorporate its activities with a facility in North Carolina. Through Mr. Heskett’s efforts, not only did the facility remain open, but the company made an additional \$9.5 million in capital investments. Mr. Heskett is responsible for managing six Golden State Foods distribution centers in North Carolina, Virginia, New York, Wisconsin and Illinois. The Lexington County Golden State Foods facility became the first recipient of the prestigious Chairman’s Challenge Award in 2000 under Mr. Heskett’s leadership. This award is presented within the company and recognizes the facility with outstanding performance, innovation, leadership and determination.

Golden State Foods is one of the largest diversified suppliers to the foodservice industry. The company was founded in 1947 and has approximately 3,000 employees worldwide.

“Businesses small and large have contributed greatly to South Carolina’s economy with investments, job creation and community involvement. This is a week to recognize the contributions of businesses, industries and community leaders for their continued commitment to growing economic opportunity in South Carolina. These ambassador’s have given their energy above and beyond to enhance our communities and make South Carolina a better place to live and work,” said Joe Taylor, Secretary of Commerce.

Each year the Department of Commerce joins local communities to thank business and industry for its vital contributions to South Carolina’s economy. The Department of Commerce kicks off Industry Appreciation Week each year by recognizing Ambassadors for Economic Development. These individuals include local leaders from the private sector representing a variety of businesses and economic development organizations committed to securing new jobs and investment in their communities.

-###