



**Laurinburg/Scotland County Area
Chamber of Commerce**

For Immediate Release

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First 2010 Business After Hours set for Tuesday

On Tuesday, February 23, chamber members and guests can welcome a new doctor to the area. Dr. John Atkins, Scotland Health Care System's newest pulmonologist, has opened a private practice at Laurinburg Internal Medicine, 601 Lauchwood Drive, and will be the host for the year's first Business After Hours event. A ribbon cutting for Atkins will take place during the program, as well. The gathering will begin at 5:00 p.m. and continue until 7:00 p.m.

Originally from Raleigh, Atkins is excited about being in Laurinburg where most of his family, including his father and three of his siblings, still live. His mother and a sister reside in Fayetteville and he has other family members in Anson County. "I haven't lived this close to home in over 20 years," he stated.

After serving as the medical director of the ICU, pulmonary function lab, and the bronchoscopy suite at Brooke Army Medical Center, Atkins worked as the Chief of Medical Services of the 41st Combat Support Hospital for one year and as the medical director of the pulmonary disease clinic at Camp Eagle Base in Bosnia.

Following the completion of his 15-year military career as the Chief of the Pulmonary Disease Service at Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Ft. Gordon, Georgia, Atkins joined Acute Care consultants, Inc/CSRA Pulmonary Associates, a large private practice in Augusta, where he practiced for the past four years.

The BAH program is generally held the fourth Thursday of the month, and refreshments and door prizes are provided by the sponsoring business. Sponsors have the opportunity to showcase products and services to a diverse crowd of business representatives. For more information about this or upcoming BAH events, call the chamber at (910) 276-7420 or e-mail mkendall@laurinburgchamber.com.

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