



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

*For Immediate Release*

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**Chamber, TDA, RCC Partner for Hospitality Forum**

The Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce, Scotland County Tourism and Development Authority and Richmond Community College are offering a special class designed to improve customer service skills and to highlight Scotland County's past. The Sandhills Hospitality Hosts Forum is scheduled for March 25 and March 26. Each session begins at 9:00 a.m. at the A.B Gibson Building, located at 322 South Main Street, and will conclude with a riding tour of the county at 1:00 p.m.

Theresa Lamson, president of the Chamber, said the forum was an excellent opportunity to partner with the Small Business Center at RCC and TDA in the development of a new program. "Our board and several members had voiced their concerns over the lack of awareness many of our residents had in the area of tourism," Lamson said.

The two dates will draw on two different crowds of service professionals. Hospitality industry staff, such as hotel and restaurant employees, are invited to attend the March 25 session. Volunteers and other service industry staff are invited to attend the March 26 session. Each session's discussion will be geared toward educating visitors to Scotland County about the area's history and features. The classes will also teach important customer service skills, which are vital for service industry professionals. "Great customer service is a keystone to return business, and more awareness about the area we live in will hopefully lead to a more overall positive attitude about Scotland County," Lamson said.

Afterward, there will be a riding tour around Scotland County. Tour stops will include the Lumber River State Park in Wagram, Cypress Bend Winery, the John Blue House, Indian Museum of the Carolinas and the Scotland County Museum.

Reservations must be made for the morning session, and seating is limited. Lunch will be provided during the riding tour. For more information or to make reservations, call the chamber at 276-7420 or e-mail [kbuie@laurinburgchamber.com](mailto:kbuie@laurinburgchamber.com).

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