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THOMAS JOINS GDC TEAM AS COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The ***Greer Development Corporation (GDC)*** is pleased to announce the hiring of Melissa J. Thomas as the Commercial Development Director beginning June 5, 2006. As Commercial Development Director for ***GDC***, Melissa will be responsible for recruitment and retention of commercial businesses in the Greer community; assisting in targeted marketing of the Greer community; facilitating the activities of the Greer Station Association; assisting with issues affecting commercial development; and working with businesses, property owners, citizens, local agencies and area economic development organizations.

Prior to joining ***GDC***, Melissa has worked in Constituent Services with Senator Jim DeMint and previously for US Representative DeMint. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Greenville Technical College where she teaches American Government classes. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Anderson College where she graduated Cum Laude and has a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Clemson University.

"I am excited about having Melissa join our team," says David Swenson, ***GDC's*** Executive Director.

"Commercial development is very active in the Greer market. Her experience and background in working with the public is a good fit for this position and our organization."

"We welcome Melissa to the Greer team and look forward to her helping our business community grow," said Wryley Bettis, GDC 2006 Chairman. "***GDC*** plays a strategic role in our community of working with new and existing businesses, targeted marketing, and working on product development. Melissa will play an important role in helping our organization be successful."

"Greer is a growing marketplace that needs the resource support and assistance of the ***Greer Development Corporation,***" commented Dennis Hennett, CEO of Greer State Bank and GDC Board Member. "The Commercial Director position is important to the organization and we are excited Melissa is on board."

"I am excited about being a part of ***GDC*** and the Greer community," commented Melissa Thomas. "Working with Senator DeMint has been a great experience that has taught me a lot about working with people and making things happen. The Commercial Development Director position is the next challenge for me in my career. It is very exciting to be a part of an organization focused on strategic economic development and community revitalization efforts in one of South Carolina's fastest growing cities."

The Greer Development Corporation is a non-profit organization established to promote and enhance economic growth and development in the Greer community. GDC is a 501c(4) public-private partnership focused on business recruitment and retention activities, targeted marketing, and product development.