



## Chairman's Letter

Happy New Year! Happy New Chamber Year!, that is. Just like the beginning of a new calendar year, the beginning of a new Chamber year brings excitement and expectations of great accomplishments.

How many times have you made a New Year's resolution to lose weight, exercise, or spend more time doing the things you enjoy? Lately, I've been thinking about a few New Year resolutions we should consider as Chamber members. I hope you will join me in embracing the following New Chamber Year resolutions:

### STAY INVOLVED.

Many of you are heavily involved in the Chamber's membership events and committees and we are thankful for your continued commitment. I hope you will continue your involvement or pass the torch to someone in your organization.

### GET INVOLVED.

If you're not attending one of our many membership events or involved in a committee, then I encourage you to do so. I promise you won't be sorry for the effort and the new contacts you will make. Your business will reap the benefits!

### ENCOURAGE OTHER BUSINESSES TO JOIN THE CHAMBER.

The membership of our Chamber should reflect the diversity of our business community. We can certainly do a better job in this area and I hope you will be mindful of this and invite a business to join the Chamber. North, South, East, and West Tyler, we should always keep in mind the mission of the Chamber which is to enhance the business environment, economic well-being, and quality of life, for ALL citizens of the Tyler area.

**Happy New Year!, better yet,  
Happy New Chamber Year!**

Walter Wilhelmi

# tyler business expo

Thursday,  
**January 19, 2006**

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Harvey Convention Center  
Free Admission

**Over 200 Exhibits!**  
**Prizes All Day!**

Register to win a **\$500**

Gift Card to Home Depot

and a Gift valued at **\$350**

from ProForma Crockett Resources!

## Tyler Gear Up Project

**Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs**

**Dr. Peggy Gill, Project Director, UT Tyler**

The University of Texas at Tyler has been awarded a federal grant in partnership with Tyler ISD to provide a comprehensive, systemic program of services to assist students and their parents in gaining early awareness and readiness for college. The project will serve approximately 900 students and their parents in the first year with services continuing over the next five years. Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year, all students enrolled in 6th or 7th grade in Boulter, Stewart, and Dogan middle schools in Tyler ISD will participate in activities that lead to enrollment in postsecondary education. These students will continue to be served if they attend John Tyler High School. All faculties in these schools will be engaged in intensive staff development activities to develop a culture of high expectations of success accompanied by a rigorous curriculum.

The project consists of five components: Professional Development, Academic Support, Parent and Family Involvement, Educational Partnerships, Data Driven Decision-making.

The five components will work synergistically to create a culture of success in which students from demographic groups (low socioeconomic, minority) that are traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education have the skills and expectation to graduate from college.

The project is based on a model of distributed leadership that encourages and facilitates campus-level ownership of all activities and processes. Administration, faculty, staff, parents, students, and community organizations all play key roles in the development, revision, and implementation of the project. The Tyler Chamber of Commerce, Tyler Junior College, The Tyler Ministerial Alliance and UT Tyler Association of Student Athletes are Partners with TISD and UT Tyler in the GEAR UP grant. Project partners may provide direct student services through tutoring, mentoring, and job shadowing. In addition, partners may provide classroom speakers, support for enrichment activities, and organization of specific after school or summer activities.

## Chamber to Publish Annual Community Magazine

The 2006 edition of *Images of Tyler*, a community magazine sponsored by the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, will publish this June.

*Images of Tyler* is a vibrant, newsstand-quality magazine that showcases the best of Tyler through its people, places and progressive business climate. With all new, original photography and editorial features, the 2006 publication will focus on specific areas of education, the arts, sports and recreation, healthcare, commerce and quality of life. It will be used all year for the purpose of promoting the community to

prospective residents, new businesses and visitors.

Scheduled to publish mid-June 2006, Chamber members will have the opportunity to reserve advertising space soon. More than 15,000 copies of the magazine will be distributed through the Chamber and key local businesses, as well as at trade shows, conferences and events throughout the year.

Visit *Images of Tyler* online at [www.images-tyler.com](http://www.images-tyler.com). For more information about the magazine, contact the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce at (903) 592-1661 or Journal Communications toll-free at (800) 333-8842.

# ribboncuttings



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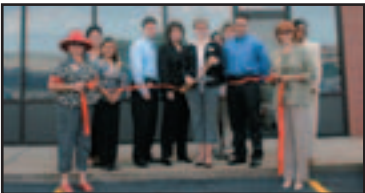
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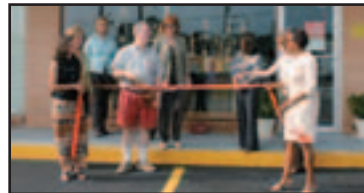
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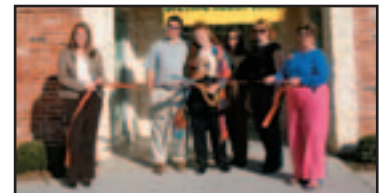
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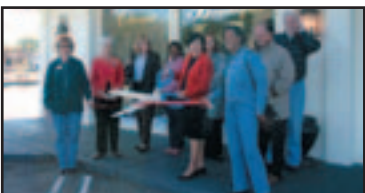
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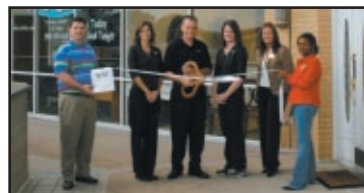
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