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## **Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce Releases Regional Wage and Benefit Report**

**Fishersville, March 5**– For the first time in about 10 years we have relevant wage and benefit data for our region. In 2018, the Talent Coalition, a workforce development committee of the Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce, identified a need to conduct a wage and benefit survey for the region. When developing the RFP, the group decided that it would be valuable to include surrounding localities.

The Chamber commissioned Mangum Economics from Glen Allen, Virginia to conduct the survey. The project was a collaborative effort that, in addition to the sponsorship and direction of the Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce, involved participation by the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber, the Highland County Chamber of Commerce, Lexington-Rockbridge Chamber of Commerce, the Luray-Page County Chamber of Commerce, the Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce, and the Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge.

The survey covers private organizations, both businesses and nonprofit organizations, in the localities of Augusta County, Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Highland County, Lexington, Page County, Rockbridge County, Rockingham County, Shenandoah County, Staunton, and Waynesboro.

There are five separate reports covering the results of the study. The reports provide results of the survey for all respondents for all eleven localities. It also includes insights that were gleaned from individual conversations with several businesses. One report shows how benefits offered by respondents in twelve major industries compare to benefits offered by all respondents in all industries. Additionally, there are three subregion reports with each one covering the responses to the benefits part of the survey. The localities are grouped into subregions Buena Vista, Lexington and Rockbridge; Augusta, Highland, Staunton, and Waynesboro; and Harrisonburg, Page, Rockingham, and Shenandoah.

David Zorn from Mangum Economics was the lead consultant on the project. Mr. Zorn will be on hand to present the results and answer questions on March 12, 11:00 am, at Blue Ridge Community College, Plecker Center. A link for the report will be provided following the event.

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The Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)(6) membership organization that serves Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County with a mission to strengthen and enhance the local business environment, represent the interests of our members, and foster balanced growth in our region. As a champion for our business community, we advocate, empower, inspire, and lead to build an environment where business can grow and thrive.