



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Ted Abernathy, Executive Director, Southern Growth Policies Board
Office: 919-941-5145, tabernathy@southern.org

**Southern Growth Policies Board Names
Fayetteville Forward
2010 Innovator Award Winner from Arkansas**

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC – Southern Growth Policies Board is pleased to announce **Fayetteville Forward** as the recipient of its *2010 Innovator Award from Arkansas*. The **Fayetteville Forward** program is an innovative, collaboration-based initiative that engages the entire community in creating an action plan to build and foster economic development in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The program was launched to continue the work of—and community spirit generated by—a March 2009 economic development summit that involved more than 500 participants representing over 330 different groups. **Fayetteville Forward** is organized into 11 action groups that focus on specific areas such as the creative economy, public education and citizen empowerment. Monthly meetings are held to report on action group efforts and collaborate on city-wide initiatives that bridge traditional interest divides. In 2009, citizens volunteered more than 6,000 hours to the **Fayetteville Forward** program, leading to results such as a monthly cultural arts event known as First Thursday Fayetteville, the establishment of a Green Jobs Training Center, and the creation of a website on the community's history. **Fayetteville Forward** has become an initiative for new inspiration, insights, and partnerships that have led to stronger, more time-efficient, and sustainable solutions for the whole community.

Innovator Awards are presented annually to one organization in each of Southern Growth's 13 member states in recognition of initiatives that are improving economic opportunities and quality of life in the region. The *2010 Innovator Awards* were chosen from creative initiatives in the region that aim to help communities recover from the recession. One award winner per week will be announced in Southern Growth's e-newsletter, *Southern Compass*, leading up to an official recognition of all awardees at [**Southern Growth's Chairman's Conference, June 7-8, 2010 in Lexington, Kentucky**](#). For more information on Southern Growth's Innovator Awards program or Chairman's Conference, contact Ted Abernathy, Executive Director, Southern Growth Policies Board, at (919) 941-5145 or tabernathy@southern.org.

About Southern Growth Policies Board

Southern Growth Policies Board is a regional public policy think tank based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Formed by the region's governors in 1971, Southern Growth Policies Board develops and advances visionary economic development policies by providing a forum for collaboration among a diverse cross-section of the region's governors, legislators, business and academic leaders and the economic and community development sectors. Southern Growth provides its members, and the region, with authoritative research, discussion forums and pilot projects in the areas of technology and innovation, globalization, workforce development, community development, civic engagement and leadership. To learn more about Southern Growth Policies Board, visit www.southern.org.