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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**U.S. Chamber Awards Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce with 4-Star Accreditation**

**Hanover, PA:** The United States Chamber of Commerce today awarded the Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce with 4-Star Accreditation for its sound policies, effective organizational procedures, and positive impact on the community.

“Accreditation validates a chamber as having programs that benefit their local economy and for positively influencing action in their community,” said Raymond P. Towle, IOM, CAE, U.S. Chamber Executive Director of Political Affairs and Federation Relations. “We applaud these organizations for advancing the principles of free enterprise.”

Accreditation is the only national program that recognizes chambers for their effective organizational procedures and community involvement. In order to receive Accreditation, a chamber must meet minimum standards in their operations and programs, including areas of governance, government affairs, and technology. This extensive self-review can take 3-6 months to complete.

“Accreditation is a valuable process since it requires such a critical and intensive evaluation of the organization. It is a developmental opportunity that engages the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers. It instills a continuous improvement mindset within the organization and measures success with peer organizations in the industry,” said Gary Laird, President, Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce.

Local chambers are rated Accredited, 3-Stars, 4-Stars, or 5-Stars. State chambers are recognized as either Accredited State Chamber or Accredited State Chamber with Distinction. The final determination is made by the Accrediting Board, a committee of U.S. Chamber board members.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation, representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region.

The mission of the Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce delivers value to its members and advances the interests of the business community. For more information, please visit [www.uschamber.com](http://www.uschamber.com) or [www.hanoverchamber.com](http://www.hanoverchamber.com).

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