

Adventures in Learning Program Guide

General Session
Mondays, Sept. 29 - Nov. 3
(10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

Charlotte's Next Big Thing

Sept. 29: **Will Plentl, Department of Aviation Director, Charlotte Douglas International Airport** will confirm that there's more on the horizon than just airplanes! Charlotte Douglas International is a strong, vibrant and growing gateway to the world - a premier airport of choice for many. From the multiple concourses and concessions to airfares and airlines, Will Plentl will regale you with what is new and upcoming at the airport.



Oct. 6: Let's rephrase a classic nursery rhyme and ask ourselves this question: "Charlotte, Charlotte, how does your city grow?" **Tom Flynn, Economic Development Director with the City of Charlotte** is just the man to give you an answer. Tom has been responsible for many economic development projects that have pushed Charlotte to the top in terms of economic growth. He is responsible for the city's efforts concerning small business development, business retention and expansion, redevelopment, and workforce expansion. You won't want to miss this program where Tom will give you an update on where Charlotte is heading next!

Oct. 13: **Doug Smith, business columnist, The Charlotte Observer.** Doug's column, "The Next Big Thing," is the inspiration for this fall's Adventures in Learning General Session series. Doug will give you the inside scoop on what he has learned during his two years as business and development columnist (as well as during his 40 years of experience with *The Charlotte Observer* organization). You can ask him how he goes about finding "the next big thing" ideas for his column, and perhaps he will share his latest breaking story. A Charlotte native, Doug has a unique sense of local history that he brings to real estate and development reporting.



Oct. 20: With the N.C. Board of Governors' endorsement this past March of a \$450 million plan to expand the UNC School of Medicine, plans are now underway for Charlotte's first medical school, which will be on the campus of Carolinas Medical Center (CMC). **Dr. James McDeavitt, Senior Vice President, Education & Research, Carolinas Healthcare System,** will tell you about the challenges involved in establishing a new medical school, from finding physical space, to enlisting the help of private physicians to provide training opportunities and teaching expertise.

Oct. 27: **Winston Kelley, NASCAR Hall of Fame Executive Director** will tell you about Charlotte's state-of-the-art NASCAR Hall of Fame, which has been proclaimed as Charlotte's "crown jewel" and "The very best Hall of Fame themed entertainment experience in the world." Now under construction and scheduled for completion in early 2010, the facility will honor NASCAR icons and create an enduring tribute to the drivers, crew members, team owners and others in the sport of stock car racing.



Nov. 3: The Carolina Thread Trail is a regional network of greenways and trails that will reach 15 counties and 2.3 million southern citizens. It will link people, places, cities, towns and attractions. **Colleen Frenzel, Carolina Thread Trail Project Coordinator with the Catawba Lands Conservancy,** will share with you the story behind the trail, as well as plans for its development.