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## **CHAMBER RECOGNIZES AREA BUSINESS MILESTONES**

*Atchison area businesses celebrate years of service*

ATCHISON, Kan. (Nov. 20, 2008) — Atchison County relishes the opportunity to celebrate its rich and storied history. For the Atchison area businesses community, 2008 offered plenty of chances to reflect.

The Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce honored 14 businesses that reached milestone years during a luncheon on Nov. 19. Six of those businesses honored have been in operation for 100 years or more, including the City of Atchison, which celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> year in 2008.

The Catholic community celebrated its longstanding relationship with the area, as Benedictine College reached 150 years and Mount St. Scholastica hit 145.

“Atchison is so rich in history. It is important to stop and reflect on the importance of our beginnings,” said Jacque Pregont, Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce president. “St. Benedict’s College was founded the same year Atchison was incorporated as a city. That is amazing! And as Benedictine College it has become an important part of Atchison today and as it continues to grow will be an important part of our future, as will all these businesses. It is an enjoyable time for us to come together and appreciate everyone here today for their contributions to Atchison, Kansas.”

Atchison by BIC, Atchison Leather and Golden Star each celebrated 100 years of business. Also recognized were Atchison Housing Authority, 40 years; Medicalodge of Atchison, 35 years; All Faith Counseling Center and McDonald’s, 25 years; Taco John’s, 20 years; Bank of Atchison, 15 years; Custom Craftmasters and Schaeffer Computers, 10 years.

“We are all aware of Lewis and Clark’s visit to the area more than 200 years ago. The interconnectedness — the history of United States and Atchison really begins to shine around 150 years ago,” observed Mike Stec, AACC Chairman. “This coming February

marks the incorporation of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. The money that fueled the railroad came from our local merchants that helped outfit the settlers heading west on the Oregon Trail.

“Later in 1859 Abraham Lincoln ‘test marketed’ his famous Cooper’s Union address. The speech condemning slavery, was given at our own Methodist Church,” Stec added, concluding that, “The courage of the settlers, business people and religious leaders that came to the area during the 1800’s was truly remarkable. I am so proud to be part of a community that has grown from these roots and has fostered so many new organizations over the years.”

The mission of the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce is to focus on the quality of life, attraction, growth and retention of jobs and businesses in Atchison County. Established in 1919, the Chamber continues to be the leading business organization of the community. With the support of over 400 member investors, the Chamber delivers programs and services that make our community a better place to live, work, raise a family and visit.

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For more information about Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce members, please call Jacque Pregont at 913-367-2427 or 800-234-1854, or e-mail Jacque at [president@atchisonkansas.net](mailto:president@atchisonkansas.net).