



Laud this leader of South Jersey business group | Letters

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By [South Jersey Times Letters](#)

With more than 3,000 members from seven counties, the [Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey](#) was founded in 1873. For the past 24 years, Kathleen Davis of West Deptford Township has been its executive vice president and CEO.

In a few days, Davis, a Glassboro State College (now Rowan University) and Gateway Regional High School graduate will retire after a notable career.

Davis is revered by chamber members and is widely respected on both sides of the political aisle. Thanks to her, the chamber is regarded as the voice of South Jersey business in Trenton.

The Summer Institute for Educators has been one of Davis' signature projects since 1996. The award-winning program, now in its 28th year, provides teachers with a better understanding of the regional economy, and insight on business operations and the skills and characteristics for success. More than 600 teachers have gone through the program, impacting thousands of students.

In 2005, Davis formed the Chamber's Board Council on Responsible Government Spending, then researched and wrote three reports over four years, containing more than 100 recommendations. If all had been implemented, they represented up to \$1 billion in taxpayer savings.

As this chapter of Davis' career ends and a new one begins, I want to thank her on behalf of the chamber's board of directors for everything she's done to advance business in South Jersey. On a personal note, I'll cherish her friendship and support of my small business for a very long time.

Lisa Simon, Cherry Hill

Note: The writer is CEO of Philadelphia-based SPRYTE Communications and is ending a six-year term on the Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey Board of Directors.

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