

RUTH ECKERD HALL

RICHARD B. BAUMGARDNER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

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RUTH ECKERD HALL PRESIDENT AND CEO ROBERT A. FREEDMAN ELECTED CHAIRMAN ELECT OF CLEARWATER REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

July 7, 2009, Clearwater, FL – Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Bob Clifford recently announced that Robert A. Freedman, President and CEO of Ruth Eckerd Hall, has been elected as the Chairman Elect of the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. "The Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce is extremely excited to continue the long tradition of highly respected business community leaders with the appointment of Robert Freedman as Chair Elect. His support of the chamber over the past five years has provided great insight and direction," said Clifford.

Robert will hold the second highest volunteer position of the 87-year-old Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce. His role as Chairman Elect will be to assist the current Chairman of the Board, Carol Hague, in implementing the policies and directives established by the membership of the Chamber and will assume Ms. Hague's duties in her absence. Additionally, Robert will immerse himself in membership relations and in developing new relationships in the area's business community. His position includes membership on the Chamber's Executive Board, and as Chairman Elect, he will be developing his full board of the Chamber for 2011.

"Not only is it very important for a not for profit donor based organization like Ruth Eckerd Hall to be a meaningful player in the business community, it is also very important to give back with our volunteer time," said Freedman. "Not for profit businesses are a major part of the Clearwater Chamber and our community and I am looking forward to working on behalf of the Chamber and the business community," concluded Robert.

The Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce is an independent, not-for-profit business organization dedicated to enhancing the vitality of the area, while protecting the unsurpassed quality of life that its residents enjoy. Established in 1922, the Clearwater Chamber is the leading advocate for business in the Tampa Bay area. Their professional staff provide businesses innovative opportunities to market their products and services to the public. The Chamber also represents the interests of businesses at all levels of government. For more information regarding the Clearwater Chamber please call 727-461-0011 or visit our website at www.clearwaterflorida.org.

Ruth Eckerd Hall and the Ruth Eckerd Hall Foundation are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations.

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