

For Immediate Release: Thursday, August 3, 2017

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## **University Presidents Gee and Gilbert to Speak at 81st Annual Meeting and Business Summit**

**Charleston, W.Va.** – When the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting and Business Summit of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce opens on August 30 at The Greenbrier Resort, the Chamber anticipates it will welcome the largest crowd to ever attend the annual event. Nearly 800 participants are already registered for the three-day meeting that is the largest gathering of business, education and policy leaders in West Virginia.

The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce is our state's solutions-based, voluntary membership organization of the state's premier employers. This year's meeting is supported by a record amount of sponsorships.

During the course of the three-day meeting, WVU President E. Gordon Gee and Marshall University President Jerry Gilbert will speak to the crowd. West Virginia Chamber President Steve Roberts stated, "Both President Gee and President Gilbert have a unique insight into what is needed for our students to be successful and the importance of higher education in West Virginia's economy."

In addition to Presidents Gee and Gilbert, the crowd at the Annual Meeting and Business Summit will hear from United States Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito, Governor Jim Justice (invited), members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Senate President Mitch Carmichael, House Speaker Tim Armstead, WV Department of Commerce Secretary Woody Thrasher, WV Department for the Arts and Education Secretary Gayle Manchin, and numerous other speakers during the many symposia that take place during the three-day event.

Rex Repass will also unveil the results of the West Virginia Poll, and Bill Bissett of the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce and Brian Dayton of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce will discuss the political landscape for the 2018 Elections.

Roberts added, "This meeting is the largest gathering of business, education and policy leaders across the state and truly is the premier business event of the year in West Virginia."

West Virginia Chamber members wishing to attend the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting and Business Summit are encouraged to register at <a href="https://www.wvchamber.com">www.wvchamber.com</a> or call (304) 342-1115. Those who are not members of the West Virginia Chamber and would like to attend are encouraged to contact Amanda Pasdon at <a href="mailto:apasdon@wvchamber.com">apasdon@wvchamber.com</a>.