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The Economics Club of Grand Rapids Names James Hackett of Steelcase Business Person of the Year

Former Prime Minister of Great Britain Tony Blair to Provide the Keynote Presentation at Annual Dinner Meeting

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., May 29, 2012 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- The [Economics Club of Grand Rapids](#) has named James Hackett, president and chief executive officer of [Steelcase Inc.](#) (NYSE:SCS), Business Person of the Year. The award was instituted to honor a leading executive from a leading and/or large employer in Grand Rapids who has made significant contributions for the betterment of the community and is individually recognized as an influential business leader. The club will recognize Hackett at the Annual Dinner Meeting this evening at 6 p.m. ET.

"Under Hackett's leadership, Steelcase has reached many milestones including its 100 year anniversary earlier this year. James has been a longtime supporter of our organization and a pillar in our community for decades," said Lorna D. Schultz, executive director for the Economic Club of Grand Rapids. "His business acumen, exuberant leadership style, and philanthropic efforts with organizations like West Michigan Center for Arts & Technology and Grand Rapids University Prep Academy made him an obvious choice for Business Person of the Year."

The reception and dinner, to be held in the Steelcase Ballroom at DeVos Place, will feature remarks from former Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom. Blair will then participate in a moderated discussion about his political and philanthropic efforts in the Middle East and his work furthering the mission of the [Tony Blair Faith Foundation](#), which aims to promote respect and understanding about the world's major religions and show how faith is a powerful force for good in the modern world.

The club also will honor Sister Aquinas Weber with the Slykhouse Lifetime Achievement Award. This recognition is given to an individual who has demonstrated a long term dedication to the community's prosperity.

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