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NEWS RELEASE

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GHP RECEIVES \$3 MILLION GRANT TO BOOST OPPORTUNITY HOUSTON CAMPAIGN INVESTMENT TO HELP CREATE JOBS, ATTRACT TALENT TO HOUSTON

HOUSTON – The Greater Houston Partnership today received a \$3 million grant from global technology company – and major local employer – GE to support GHP’s *Opportunity Houston 2.0* campaign.



Photo Credit: David Brown; L-R Drayton McLane, Jr., chairman of the *Opportunity Houston 2.0* greets Jeff Immelt, President and CEO of GE.

Opportunity Houston 2.0 is a six-year, \$40 million initiative that will begin in 2014 as a continuation of the *Opportunity Houston* program. It will assist the region in creating an additional 450,000 jobs, generating \$45 billion in capital investment between 2014 and 2020,

attracting talent, growing our regional workforce, and enhancing Houston's image. The campaign, which was launched in December, 2012, has now raised more than \$18 million.

Drayton McLane, Jr., chairman of the *Opportunity Houston 2.0* campaign and founding chairman of the original *Opportunity Houston* program, noted the significance of GE's continued commitment to creating jobs and ensuring future prosperity for Houston.

"GE's contribution is the largest investment in *Opportunity Houston 2.0* to date," said McLane, chairman of The McLane Group, a holding company that includes distribution, logistics and technology in its corporate portfolio. "GE has been a leader in jobs and improving the quality of life for Houstonians for a very long time. This latest investment is further evidence of the company's ongoing commitment to encouraging economic growth and job creation in the Houston region."



Photo Credit: David Brown; L-R Drayton McLane, Jr., chairman of the *Opportunity Houston 2.0*; Jeff Immelt, President and CEO of GE; Darryl Wilson, Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer of GE; David McClanahan, Chairman, Greater Houston Partnership; and Bob Harvey, President and CEO, Greater Houston Partnership

Houston is home to 6,000 GE employees and seven of the company's business units, including Oil & Gas, Healthcare and Capital. Across the state, GE employs nearly 10,000 individuals, which represents one of the company's largest employee bases in the U.S.

Darryl Wilson, Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer - Distributed Power, GE Power & Water, cited the company's continued commitment to investment in the region.

"Houston is a very important market to GE," said Wilson. "GE is investing heavily in Houston by continuously developing its people, cultivating innovative community partnerships, and delivering advanced technologies that, together, will help both GE and Houston better compete in a global market."

In 2005, GHP launched *Opportunity Houston*, an aggressive lead generation and marketing program to grow jobs, increase capital investment, and expand foreign trade. The program concludes this year. More than 160 investors, including multinational corporations, small businesses, individuals and economic development organizations, contributed \$32 million to the

initial *Opportunity Houston* program. The program has assisted the Houston region in creating more than 487,000 jobs and attracting \$36.2 billion in capital investment since 2005.

“*Opportunity Houston 2.0* will continue the momentum of the original program and further position the region as a place for dynamic growth, robust capital investment, and endless opportunity,” said GHP President and CEO Bob Harvey.

Harvey added, “The Greater Houston Partnership is elated at GE’s contribution to building a better future for the Houston region. GE has been a great corporate citizen and a vital catalyst in building Houston’s reputation as an important global force. There is no question that Houston is the ‘Energy Capital of the World’ and a great place to grow a business of any scale; GE’s announcement underscores this fact.”

For a complete list of investors or more information on *Opportunity Houston 2.0*, visit www.opportunityhouston.org.

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The Greater Houston Partnership is the primary advocate of Houston’s business community and is dedicated to building regional economic prosperity. It represents 10 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto and Waller. With more than 2,100 Member organizations, GHP represents approximately one-fifth of the region’s work force. Visit GHP at houston.org.

GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

houston.org

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