

## Stratford Land Breaks Ground on RiverPort Business Park

A groundbreaking ceremony was recently held at RiverPort Business Park (just east of the Savannah River on Highway 17) by its owner, Stratford Land. Local dignitaries including S.C. State Representative William Bill Herbkersman (R-Blufton), Jasper County Chairperson Barbara Clark, CEO Danny Black of Southern Carolina Alliance and Hardeeville Mayor Bronco Bostick attended to celebrate the start of construction of RiverPort Parkway, which will serve as the entrance to the 172-acre industrial section of the development.

Located 4.5 miles from Exit 5 on I-95 and 11 miles from the Port of Savannah, the fastest growing port and fourth largest container port in the nation, RiverPort Business Park is a mixed-use development of more than 5,100 acres.

Representative Herbkersman, who is a member of both the



(L-R) Southern Carolina Alliance CEO Danny Black, Jasper County Council Chairwoman Barbara Clark, Hardeeville Mayor Bronco Bostick, and State Representative Bill Herbkersman join David Moore, Senior Investment Manager of Stratford Land, for the groundbreaking ceremonies at the new Riverport Business Park at I-95 and Highway 17 in Jasper County.

hub as an outgrowth of the momentum that is building in this region. More companies are starting to tap into this area as it presents an ideal location to

Beaufort and Jasper legislative delegations, noted the positive impact that RiverPort Business Park is expected to have on the Lowcountry region, RiverPort Business Park is exemplary of the great industrial development opportunities and aggressive economic incentives in place to attract businesses to this region. It is estimated that RiverPort has the potential to attract an additional 10,500 jobs and a collective increase in annual personal income of up to \$210 million to the area.

Hardeeville Mayor Bronco Bostick, a member of the Southern Carolina Alliance Board, said, "The City of Hardeeville is pleased to welcome this new inland logistics

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## NRAM Auto Remanufacturing Center Holds Grand Opening Ceremony

(L-R) Jasper County Councilmen Tom Johnson, Barbara Clark, Marty Sauls, Henry Etheridge and Theo Drayton join businessman Warner Peacock (third from right) for announcement ceremonies for the New River Auto Mall Remanufacturing Center.



A crowd of more than 400 joined businessman Warner Peacock for the announcement ceremony celebrating the opening of the 36,000 SF New River Auto Mall (NRAM) Remanufacturing Center in Jasper County on March 18th. Southern Carolina Alliance President and CEO Danny Black, Jasper County Council Chairwoman Barbara Clark, Councilman Henry Etheridge, and Jasper County Chamber of Commerce President Marty Sauls, who also serves on county council, were among the dignitaries participating in the event.

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# Free Manufacturing Career Training

## With South Carolina Manufacturing Certification For Current and Future Jobs in the Area

As part of our efforts to connect our residents with good manufacturing jobs in the region, our local technical colleges are offering the S.C. Manufacturing Certification program, which consists of 200 hours of classroom and on-hands training—at no cost to participants.

Manufacturing jobs are growing in the area as companies and consumers once again demand the quality of products “Made in the USA.” As a result, local manufacturers are creating jobs with good wages and benefits.

This 200 hour program consists of classroom time, hands-on training and production simulation.



### Increase your employability by:

- Earning an industry-recognized national certification
- Mastering the soft and technical skills essential for jobs in advanced manufacturing
- Understanding what it takes to work effectively in a manufacturing environment
- Improving your fundamental communication skills
- Sharpening your basic math skills, learning to measure and read blueprints, and more

### To qualify for the free training, you must:

- Be unemployed or underemployed
- Have a silver-level WorkKeys certification
- Successfully pass a drug screen and background check
- Be a S.C. resident

For more information and to apply:

#### Allendale, Bamberg and Barnwell County Residents

Contact: Stephen Mason  
Denmark Technical College  
1126 Solomon Blatt Blvd | PO Box 327  
Denmark, SC 29042  
803-793-5155

#### Colleton, Hampton and Jasper County Residents

Contact: Billy O’Neal  
Technical College of the Lowcountry  
921 Ribaut Road | PO Box 1288  
Beaufort, SC 29901  
843-525-8269



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# Barnwell County to Develop a YMCA

A group of community leaders led by Barnwell County Councilman Jerry Creech held a public meeting on January 9 to gauge public interest in developing a YMCA for county residents. More than a hundred citizens gathered at the Gail Reyes Center in Barnwell to hear Danny McConnell, CEO of the Augusta YMCA, who spoke at length about the benefits of establishing a Y in the community. McConnell told the crowd that the only way to make the YMCA in Barnwell a reality is for the people of the community to pull together.

McConnell added that a facility would not have to be built immediately, but that existing buildings, like high-school gymnasiums or the Gail Reyes Center where the meeting was held, can be used to hold programs.

Councilman Creech initiated the recent push to bring a Y to Barnwell to offer more options to young people, but McConnell said Y's offer memberships and programs for people of all ages.

Sheriff Ed Carroll, who is on the independent recreation committee working to make the YMCA a reality, said that more activities for young people are needed in the area, especially during the summertime.

"We have good people in Barnwell County," he said about those working to improve the lives of children.

A group of high school students was at the meeting to show their support for the idea, and several parents brought their young children to the meeting.

Five county-council members attended the meeting, along with Blackville Mayor Mike Beasley. City of Barnwell Recreation Director Mike Shumaker, also in attendance, said that a YMCA would be "great for the county."

County Council Chairman Freddie Houston, emphasized the need for the community to work together to make Barnwell a better place.



Barnwell County Councilman Jerry Creech, and Danny McConnell, CEO of the Augusta YMCA, welcomed residents to a public meeting held at the Gail Reyes Center to discuss the possibility of bringing a YMCA to Barnwell.

"Some people just don't like change," he said, "but when it comes to change, you can either make it happen or watch it happen. I think most of us want to be part of change."

As far as funding for a YMCA, McConnell said the money will come from and have to be raised by the community. According to McConnell, the YMCA's national organization generally wants \$300,000 to be raised to initiate a YMCA. That amount covers the cost of hiring a director, starting basic programs and paying rent and utilities for supplemental buildings, if used, in the first three years.

Asked after the meeting about where the project is at financially, Creech said there is money, both public and private, ready to go toward a Y. The next step is to form an 18-member volunteer board of directors to guide the YMCA, and Creech said he'd like to see all the towns in the county represented on the board.

The YMCA, which could partner with other organizations in the county, could either be part of the regional branch or an independent one.

"The benefit of being part of a branch is having a financial safety net," McConnell said. He added that independent Y's have the luxury of doing things their own way.

Since the public meeting was held, the Barnwell area YMCA is one step closer to becoming a reality. On Tuesday, Feb. 18, a delegation from Barnwell led by Barnwell County Councilmen Jerry Creech, Freddie Houston and Lowell Jowers met with the executive committee for the Augusta Family Y to hear their decision on lending their support to a Barnwell area Y.

The Family Y's executive committee did agree to lend their support and presented Creech a letter of support with stipulations for the next phase of the planning.

The Barnwell committee will have 30 days to finalize and present a formal three-year-plan back to the executive committee which will include financial, staffing, programs and location information. If those plans are approved by the executive committee, the Barnwell area Y will become a satellite and will have the support of the Family Y.

**For more information or to get involved, contact Jerry Creech at (803) 259-1455.**

*Photograph and excerpts provided courtesy of The People Sentinel.*



# Colleton County Dedicates South Carolina's Largest Solar Farm

Officials of TIG Sun Energy, The InterTech Group, Santee Cooper and Central Electric Power Cooperative addressed Colleton County citizens at the January 24th dedication of the Colleton County Solar Farm under a packed tent as part of the celebration of the county's first solar power installation and the state's largest.

Lawrence J. Hinz, the president of Coastal Electrical Cooperative and board chairman of the Central Electric Power Cooperative, told the audience that the solar farm has already been put to work.

"It has produced 300,000 kilowatts in the last 30 days, enough to power 250 of our average members' homes," said Hinz.

Grant Reeves, senior vice president of North Charleston's The InterTech Group, the parent company of the solar farm's operator, TIG Sun Energy, told the audience that the Colleton Solar Farm is unique.

Although the solar farm was designed and built to be a viable commercial supplier of solar energy to the power grids of Santee Cooper and Central Electric Power Cooperative, Reeves said, "This is really a laboratory."

Its intent, Reeves explained, is to enable the state's utility companies and other stakeholders "to learn what we need to know about integrating solar electricity onto the grid and how that can be done cost effectively."

It is designed to allow those companies to evaluate different technologies.

To aid in that assessment of the viability of solar energy in South Carolina, the solar farm was built using two systems. About 60 percent of the 10,010 solar panels on the site use fixed tilt panels. The remaining 40 percent of the panels are single-axis tracking, designed to follow the sun across the sky. The tracking system costs more to construct, maintain and operate but can generate approximately 20 percent more electricity than the fixed panels.

Information on the operation of both systems will be collected from the solar farm and moved to off-site locations where the cost effectiveness of the two systems can be analyzed.

The solar farm was also designed to collect weather information on wind speed and direction, ambient temperature and relative humidity and pass that information on to the utility companies to be added to data being analyzed.

"That extensive data will aid in future solar design," Anita Zucker, Chief Executive Officer of The Intertech Group, told the audience.

"It is my belief and hope that the Colleton Solar Farm will be the first of many in South Carolina," Zucker said.

The Colleton Solar Farm, designed to generate three megawatts of electricity, is the largest solar farm in South Carolina.

Leighton Lord, Chairman of the Santee Cooper Board of Directors, said the Colleton Solar Farm will play a critical role in deciding the future of solar energy in South Carolina.



*Todd Delello, Renewable Energy Division Manager for Gregory Energy of Columbia, is all smiles after the completion of the construction of the solar farm on Hiers Corner Road. The construction was finished ahead of schedule and the farm has already begun producing electricity that is being added to the Coastal Electric Cooperative and Santee Cooper transmission lines.*



*Solar panels line the field on Hiers Corner Road. The facility, which will harvest and sell power to neighboring cooperatives, is the largest of its kind in South Carolina and can produce enough energy to power an estimated 500 homes.*

"It is important because we want to understand solar power," Lord said. "We want to do solar power right."

The data stream coming from the Colleton Solar Farm will be a critical factor in making those determinations.

The construction and operation of the Colleton Solar Farm, Lord added, marks a new day for the state's utility companies in another way. Lord said that Santee Cooper and Central Electric Power Cooperative had entered into a long-term agreement that represented "a new era of cooperation."

"The Colleton Solar Farm," he pointed out "is the first big thing that we did together."

"This project would not have been possible without the deliberate and quick action of Colleton County Council," InterTech's Reeves added. "This idea came to fruition very quickly and the zoning issue had to be resolved. The county did a good job of taking care of that quickly. That was key to this project."

In September of last year, Santee Cooper and Central Electric Power Cooperative began to move forward on the plans to construct the solar farm.

"One of the first questions," Reeves said, "was how to construct solar

# The Colleton Solar Farm, designed to generate three megawatts of electricity, is the largest solar farm in South Carolina.

farms the most efficiently.”

On Sept. 25, Santee Cooper and Central Electric Power Cooperative entered into an agreement with TIG Sun Energy that would have TIG Sun Energy build and operate the Colleton Solar Farm.

“Two weeks later work started,” Reeves said. “It was put in operation nine weeks later. It was a phenomenal amount of construction in an incredibly short amount of time.”

Reeves said the solar farm came on line on budget and before deadline because “we worked with a top-rate team. There was a tremendous amount of trust.”

The solar farm required the installation of 43.5 miles of wire, enough wire to stretch from Hiers Corner Road in Colleton County to Charleston. Much of that wire had to be buried underground.

The solar farm, in addition to being a major step for the utility companies involved, represented a big step for The InterTech Group.

“InterTech has been making incremental steps towards solar,” Reeves said.

The company’s smaller solar projects have allowed InterTech Group to develop several business models.

Zucker said that she was proud that South Carolina companies handled the design, engineering and construction of the solar farm.

“The coordination on this project was pretty remarkable, Hinz said. “It was an amazing thing to be a part of.”

*Excerpts and photography provided courtesy of George Salsberry of the Walterboro Press and Standard.*

**“This project would not have been possible without the deliberate and quick action of Colleton County Council. This idea came to fruition very quickly and the zoning issue had to be resolved. The county did a good job of taking care of that quickly. That was key to this project.”**

**~ Grant Reeves  
Senior VP of The InterTech Group**

## Advanced Manufacturing Skills Training Program *Certifies Another Class of NCCER Welders*



**February 20th NCCER Welders** Front row, L-R: Patrick Morgan, Jeffrey Odom, Kecaulf McKnight, Alyssa Myers, Calvin Brantley; Back row, L-R: Erin Williams (instructor), Justin Smoak, Brian Maximiek, Coley Kemmerlin, Travis Martin, Jeffrey McDuffie, Mike Croft, Joshua Still, Jasean Riley, Sammie Bush

Graduation ceremonies celebrating the NCCER certification of another class of advanced welders trained through SouthernCarolina Alliance’s Advanced Manufacturing Skills Training (AMST) Program were held on Thursday, February 20, at the AMST Center in Allendale.

“Fourteen welders successfully completed the NCCER certification requirements and are now being placed in jobs,” said SCA President and CEO Danny Black. “Since the classes began in the fall, 34 local residents have been certified through this pilot program, and many are working for companies right here in the region.”

The welders, who live in the SouthernCarolina Alliance region of Allendale, Barnwell, Bamberg, Jasper, Hampton and Colleton Counties, completed 10-14 weeks of full-time Advanced Structural

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# Allendale Students Earn First Place in Robotics Competition

*This article is taken from a story by Joey Espinosa, STEM Workforce Development Coordinator at USC Salkehatchie's Leadership Institute, who also provided the photography.*

Since last October, sixteen students from Allendale County have been meeting at least one afternoon each week, working on a solution to a weather-related disaster. As a part of the global FIRST LEGO League, they researched tornadoes, designed a presentation, wrote a rap song about their project, and built and programmed a robot. On Saturday, January 11, at six o'clock in the morning, they departed from Allendale on a school bus, headed to Lexington, SC, to present their project and compete against twenty-seven other teams.

Twelve hours later, this team (named "Robot Maniacs") returned to Allendale as champions, having earned a first place trophy for the category of Core Values. Additionally, since they placed among the top seven teams at the qualifying event, they earned a ticket to the state tournament.

In the Core Values presentation, the team explained to the judges how they demonstrated character and leadership traits, such as Gracious Professionalism and "Coopertition." Gracious Professionalism is "a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community." "Coopertition" is the idea of constantly learning and helping others to learn, even while competing.

Most of the team members are 4th and 5th graders at Allendale Elementary School. As such, they were younger than most teams that they competed against. In the process of emerging as champions, they came a long way, not just in the distance traveled to the competition, but also in all that they had to learn about the FIRST LEGO League program.

The coach of the team is Ms. Ashley Roberts, 5th grade teacher at Allendale Elementary School. The co-coach is Mrs. Joanna Espinosa, parent and Allendale resident.

The vision of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is "To transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders." Each year, more than 200,000 students from 80 countries compete in the LEGO League, which is the FIRST program geared towards 4th – 8th graders.



You can learn more about this program at: [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org) .

This program in Allendale was made possible by a grant from FIRST LEGO League, and from an ANSR (Advancing Nuclear Skills Regionally) grant through the Department of Energy. Additional funding came from SRSCRO Nuclear Workforce Initiative.

Joey Espinosa, STEM Workforce Development Coordinator at USC Salkehatchie's Leadership Institute, has been working to increase the pipeline of students who are pursuing careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics).

The SRS Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO) is a non-profit regional group focused on supporting job creation in a five-county region of South Carolina and Georgia, including Aiken, Allendale and Barnwell counties in South Carolina and Richmond (Augusta) and Columbia counties in Georgia. The group's mission is to facilitate economic development opportunities associated with Savannah River Site technology, capabilities and missions and to serve as an informed, unified community voice for the two-state region.

The Nuclear Workforce Initiative (NWI®) was created by the SRS Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO) to provide a well-trained and highly qualified workforce that meets the ongoing needs of the nuclear industry in this region. The NWI® seeks to promote and expand nuclear workforce development capabilities by facilitating integrated partnerships between nuclear employers and educational and training entities that foster regional educational attainment, economic growth and job opportunities.



## SouthernCarolina Alliance and Partners Reach Out to Local Schools

SouthernCarolina Alliance has partnered with the Lower Savannah Regional Education Center (LSREC) to reach local educators and students regarding manufacturing careers as part of the region's WorkReady Communities effort to certify the workforce and promote manufacturing.

Over the last few months, SCA's marketing team has been working closely with Joni McDaniel,

Director of the LSREC, to make presentations to the superintendents and teachers in our region's ten school districts. After a successful initial meeting and discussion with the superintendents in the fall led by SCA, LSREC, and Robert Crenshaw of Apprenticeship Carolina/readySC, the SCA marketing team and LSREC were invited by superintendents to share the information with teachers. Since then, the team has made presentations to more than 200 teachers in Bamberg School District #1, Allendale School District, and Bamberg

School District #2 on manufacturing careers in the region.

"The point of our outreach efforts is to make our educators aware of the opportunities for our students right here in the region," said Kay Maxwell of SCA. "We want to connect our emerging workforce with the available jobs while helping our local industries fill both current and future job vacancies."

According to Maxwell, local industries have cited strong math skills and soft skills (such as leadership, the ability to follow directions and work as a team, appropriate behavior in the workplace) as desired qualifications for entry level jobs.

Joni McDaniel of LSREC talked with teachers about developing apprenticeships, job shadowing, and scheduling plant tours with local industries. She also shared with them several educational tools available to S.C. teachers to promote manufacturing while fulfilling curriculum requirements. Since then, several schools have toured local industries including NBS in Williston and Tobul Accumulator in Bamberg.

*For more information on connecting high school students and educators to manufacturing opportunities, please contact Kay Maxwell at (803)541-0023.*

# Boys & Girls Club of Southern Carolina Awarded Best Overall Program in SC

Each year the Boys & Girls Clubs of America awards Outstanding Program Honor Awards recognizing organizations that have provided outstanding services to club members daily. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Carolina (out of 17 organizations in the state of South Carolina) received the 2013 Program Excellence Award for the Best Overall Program for the State of South Carolina.

The awards are given in conjunction to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's five core areas which are: Character & Leadership Development; Education & Career Development; Health & Life Skills; Sports, Fitness & Recreation; and The Arts. Awards are also given for Overall Program, which consists of all the five core area programs and services combined.

Also, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America recognized and awarded Thomas L. Williams as the Board Member of the Year for his Outstanding Board Performance for the State of South Carolina. Williams also serves on the Board of Directors for Southern Carolina Alliance, the regional economic development alliance for Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties.

This award is awarded to a Board volunteer who rendered unusually devoted service to his local Boys & Girls Clubs



Representatives of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Carolina accept the Outstanding Program Honor Award. Picture from L-R: Sammie Lee Robinson, Thomas L. Williams, Jeteseya Dennis, Jim Newland, Dewayne Eubanks, Angela Evans and James Wallace

Organization through participation, committee service, personal contribution, securing donations/funding from outside sources, public presentations, board member recruitment and his attendance at state, regional and national trainings providing by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

In December 2013, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Carolina expanded its programs and services to the Blackville Community. The club site is located at the Blackville- Hilda Junior High School.

## Welding Graduates *continued from page 1*

Welding Technology training and met the exacting standards of NCCER certification.

NCCER is the national certification association universally recognized by industry and government as the training, assessment, certification and career development standard for construction and maintenance craft professionals.

Southern Carolina Alliance created a pilot program to offer the NCCER level of welding training to meet the needs of the region's existing and prospective industries. Several regional studies have indicated the need for welders with advanced skills, while many of the prospective industries encountered through SCA's industrial recruitment program have cited qualified welders as the top decision driver in choosing the location for their next operation. Highly skilled welders are in demand worldwide, and welders in the region earn \$13-\$28 per hour.

The program is managed by the renowned S.C. Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP), a non-profit organization known for improving the productivity and technological capabilities of America's small manufacturers and assisting them with the transfer of manufacturing technology. These services are offered directly by SCMEP staff, outside consultants, or a combination of both.

John Irion, President and CEO of the South Carolina

Manufacturing Extension Partnership, manages the Advanced Manufacturing Skills Training Program, providing the director and welding instructors.

The 34 welders have been interviewed by companies throughout the S.C. Lowcountry, and many have already been placed in jobs with local companies. Some of the certified welders will continue on to the 10-week NCCER Advanced Nuclear Welding Technology Program to seek welding jobs in the nuclear field. The newest trainees are now taking welding tests and submitting applications and resumes to local industries interested in hiring welders.

The program offers full-time, hands-on experience that prepares the trainees to go directly into the workforce. It is partially funded by the Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge through Southern Carolina Alliance, which was named as one of 13 Challenge Winners in the country for their innovative program to create efficient and effective workforce training tailored specifically for advanced manufacturing in the region. The Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge program was made possible by funding through the USDA and EDA.

For more information on the training program, visit the website: [www.scweldingjobs.com](http://www.scweldingjobs.com).

# Colleton County Breaks Ground for Spec Building at Colleton County Commerce Center Park

Colleton County has broken ground for a new speculative building at the Colleton County Commerce Center Park. This newest building will be constructed on a site that can be expanded up to 45 acres and will be 100,000 square feet in size, expandable to more than 600,000 square feet. The construction contract was awarded to Brunson Construction from Hampton, South Carolina. The target completion date is set for June 2014.

The scope of this project includes not only the construction of the new spec building but also a new frontage road and extension of internal roads within the industrial park. A pad for an additional spec building is also included.

“There is interest and activity from companies desiring to locate in a master-planned park. Colleton County fosters an environment to attract and grow manufacturing and distribution operations by its commitment to continue developing product within the Commerce Center Park,” said Colleton County Council Chairman Phillip M. Taylor, Sr.

Bill Workman, Colleton County Economic Alliance Chairman, agreed, “We’re excited about the opportunity to continue the momentum in the Commerce Center Park. We strongly believe this investment in product and infrastructure at the Commerce Center Park will equip us to meet the needs of companies looking for locations that will give them greater efficiency in production and distribution.”



*The Colleton County Commerce Center, located off of I-95, is where the new 100,000 square foot spec building is currently under construction.*

This new spec building will be the second one Colleton County has constructed in the Commerce Center Park. In 2012, Crescent Dairy & Beverage purchased the original spec building and has worked to up-fit that building to a high tech, ultra- pasteurization facility that also houses their aseptic packaging and distribution processes.

## SCA Board of Directors Attends Annual Retreat

The Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors held a strategic planning retreat March 6 & 7 as part of the organization’s new economic development planning process for the six-county region. Led by Mr.

Ted Abernathy of Economic Leadership LLC, the board examined economic development trends and recent changes in the local, state, national and global economies that will affect our region as part of the retreat discussion. The board discussed priorities for the region, including marketing, product development, infrastructure needs, workforce development and education. The board members also spent some time getting to know each other better and working more closely as a team. The results of the planning retreat will be integrated into SCA’s economic development plan, which will be completed this spring.

*Pictured left to right, front row: Ted Abernathy; seated: April Lucas, Alzena Robinson and Dr. Ann Carmichael; standing: Lee Petrolawicz, Carl Kilpatrick, Ron Schroder, Phillip Taylor, Gary Morris, Jason Taylor, Freddie Houston, Ike Byrd, Lowell Jowers, John Fleming, Larry Haynes, Thomas Williams, Bill Hager, Bill Workman, Tim Dangerfield, Jimmy Baker, Terry Wright, Brad Samuel, Danny Black, Dr. Joe Flowers, Buck Harvey, Johnny Williamson, Isaiah Odom and Buddy Phillips*



## Delegation Met with Congressional Leaders

The Board of Directors of Southern Carolina Alliance sent a delegation of our region's leaders to Washington, DC on February 24 & 25 to discuss economic development issues of concern with our Congressional Delegation and their senior staff.

Led by Southern Carolina Alliance Chairman Johnny Williamson of Bamberg County, the delegation of economic development leaders included: Dr. Ann Carmichael, Dean of the University of South Carolina-Salkehatchie; Senator Brad Hutto, District 40; Allendale County Councilman James Pinkney; Bamberg County Councilwoman Alzena Robinson; Barnwell County Council Chairman Freddie Houston; Colleton County Council Chairman Phillip Taylor; Hampton County Council Vice Chairman Buddy Phillips; Mr. Bronco Bostick, Mayor of Hardeeville; Danny Black, President and CEO of SCA; and Kay Maxwell, Vice President of Marketing for SCA.

The group held back-to-back meetings with Congressman and Mrs. Joe Wilson and key senior staff members, Chief of Staff Jonathan Day and Legislative Assistant for Foreign Affairs Baker Elmore; Justin Ouimette, Legislative Director for Congressman Mark Sanford; Joshua Gross, Legislative Director for Congressman Jeff Duncan; Andrew King, Chief of Staff for Senator Lindsey Graham; Barvetta Singletary, Policy Director for Congressman Jim Clyburn; and Robin Colwell, Legislative Counsel and Delores DeCosta, Regional Director for Senator Tim Scott.

According to CEO Danny Black, the meetings were focused on informing the senior Congressional staff of the region's perspective on the most pressing economic development issues in the six-county area.

"We discussed issues related to Savannah River Site, which is an economic anchor on the north end of our region," said Black, "and we shared our needs and position on port development and dredging, which is critical to all of our counties."

Black added that the delegation talked at length with the Washington representatives about the region's needs in transportation, particularly in relation to I-95; workforce development; and the need for infrastructure.

The delegation's message to the S.C. Congressional leaders was that as the most rural area of South Carolina, the Southern Carolina region has unique economic development concerns that need to be addressed, as well as the greatest potential for progress and change in the state.



Top, L-R: Mayor Bostick, Mr. Taylor, Senator Hutto, Ms. Robinson, Ms. Singletary, Mr. Williamson, Dr. Carmichael, Mr. Houston, Mr. Pinkney and Mr. Phillips. Bottom, L-R: Dr. Carmichael, Mr. Phillips, Senator Hutto, Congressman Wilson, Mayor Bostick and Mr. Black.

The SCA delegation concluded the trip with a luncheon meeting with Congressman Joe Wilson's wife, Roxanne, and Jonathan Day, the Congressman's Chief of Staff.

The organization plans to make the regional delegation visit to Washington an annual event. According to the leaders who participated, the regional delegation brings a stronger, more united voice and greater influence in speaking with Congressional leaders than small rural counties can separately. Participants in the meetings agreed that the visit was a success, with several of the Congressional offices already conducting follow up on specific issues that were addressed.

## USC Salkehatchie Breaks Ground on Student Housing

USC Salkehatchie held groundbreaking ceremonies on January 17th for The Reserve at Salkehatchie, a new 100-bed student housing facility is being constructed on a site contiguous to the USC Salkehatchie Allendale Campus.

R.W. Allen, LLC, construction company for the project, recently broke ground on the three-story facility that is scheduled to open to students by August 1, 2014. The project was made possible through a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant secured by the Community Development & Improvement Corporation (CDIC) of Aiken in association with Southern Carolina Alliance (SCA). Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung is responsible for full architectural and interior design services, in addition to civil and structural engineering.



Pictured above are Danny Black, President and CEO of SCA; Dr. Ann Carmichael, Dean of USC Salkehatchie; and Reginal Barner, CEO of CDIC of Aiken at the groundbreaking ceremonies.

## **Dr. Ann C. Carmichael** *Dean of USC Salkehatchie*



Dr. Ann C. Carmichael is the Dean of the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie Regional Campus, a position that she assumed in February 2000. USC-Salkehatchie, which is comprised of campuses in Allendale and Walterboro, serves the counties of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton and Hampton and provides a local opportunity for the University of South Carolina educational experience for approximately 1200 daytime students and professionals seeking continuing education in day and evening classes. As Dean, Dr. Carmichael manages both campuses, where 63 full-time and adjunct faculty members are employed.

Prior to her appointment, Dr. Carmichael served the Salkehatchie Campus for nine years as Director of the Salkehatchie Walterboro Campus and Coordinator of Development, overseeing the institution's five-year capital campaign. She earned her Ph.D. in counseling from USC in 1986 and has over 30 years' experience in higher education.

Prior to joining the USC Salkehatchie administration in 1991, she served as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Services at Charleston Southern University. She currently serves on the boards of many organizations in addition to the Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors, including the Colleton Medical Center Board of Trustees and the Savannah River Site Redevelopment Authority Board, which she currently serves as Chairman. Dr. Carmichael is an active member of the First Baptist Church of Walterboro.

## **Freddie L. Houston** *Chairman of Barnwell County Council*



Mr. Freddie L. Houston, Sr., has served more than twenty years in the political arena and currently serves as Chairman of Barnwell County Council. As the District #1 County Councilman for the last 6 years, Freddie has worked closely with the local, regional and state economic development teams to improve infrastructure and product development for the people of Barnwell County on numerous economic development projects, making tough decisions on tax incentives and the approval of projects related to economic, community and workforce development in the area.

Prior to serving on county council, Mr. Houston served more than 14 years on the Williston School Board of Trustees (District #29). He also served as an arbitrator for the Department of Juvenile Justice for more than ten years.

Councilman Houston has been employed with AGY in Aiken, South Carolina, for 33 years. AGY is a world leader in high performance materials used in a broad range of markets, including automotive, construction, defense, electronics, aerospace, marine, and recreation.

Mr. Houston resides in Williston with his wife, Marilyn. They have three sons.

# Board of Directors

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## **Gary Morris**

*Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd Law Firm*



Long before he joined SouthernCarolina Alliance's Board of Directors, Gary Morris has been helping companies grow and prosper in South Carolina.

As a shareholder with the Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd Law Firm in Columbia, Mr. Morris has helped scores of companies relocate to our state. His projects have ranged from a few million dollars to hundreds of millions. In one example, he assisted an international aircraft manufacturer with relocation to the Palmetto State, adding nearly \$400 million in investment and nearly 700 jobs to the state economy.

Gary advises on every aspect of corporate expansion. He works closely with clients seeking to locate or expand by helping them bridge the gap between state and local economic development authorities. He works alongside commissions, political subdivisions and state agencies to maximize the positive impact of new commercial and industrial projects.

Gary has been an active member of South Carolina Economic Developers' Association (SCEDA) for nearly 20 years and is a recognized economic development leader. He frequently makes presentations about economic development, tax incentives and real estate transactions to economic developers and other business and community leaders through organizations such as SCEDA.

In addition to his service on the SCA Board of Directors, Gary Morris is a member of the South Carolina Bar (Real Estate Section, Corporate and Banking Sections); the American Bar Association (Corporation, Banking and Business Law and International Law; Real Property, Probate and Trust Law); and Chairman of the Committee of 100, a partnership of Central SC Alliance.

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## **John W. Fleming, PE**

*Vice President of Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung Inc.*



John W. Fleming, PE, Vice President of Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung, Inc., has worked closely with the SouthernCarolina Alliance development team on many of the major economic development projects in the region, often volunteering his time and expertise to meet with prospects from around the world, including those requiring evening meetings and weekend visits to our industrial sites.

Mr. Fleming received his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Clemson University and is a licensed professional engineer in more than 10 states.

Recently John was elected in the national election as a governor of Region 4 of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) for a three-year term. Region 4, one of the Society's ten regional governing boards, represents members from Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

An active member of ASCE, Mr. Fleming is a current member of the National Committee on College Accreditation. He previously served on and chaired the National Committee on Career Development.

As a member of the SouthernCarolina Alliance Board of Directors, John serves as Chairman of the Regional Infrastructure and Product Development Committee.

# Local Leaders Named S.C. Economic Ambassadors

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Individuals and companies from every county in South Carolina were recognized on April 3<sup>rd</sup> for the many contributions they provide to their communities and to economic development as part of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Industry Appreciation Week.

These individuals included local leaders from the private sector representing a variety of businesses and economic development organizations committed to securing new jobs and investment in their communities. In the SouthernCarolina Alliance region, several prominent leaders were honored.

For more information on the economic ambassadors in Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties, please contact Kay Maxwell at (803)541-0023.

## Allendale County

Allendale County's 2014 Ambassador for Economic Development is Kimberli Scott, a fourth generation family owner of Collum's Lumber Products, LLC located in Allendale.

A graduate of the University of South Carolina, Kimberli earned a Bachelor's Degree in Management and Merchandising in 2004 and then later degrees in Interior Design and Finance. She began her career in Florida where she spent the next seven years enhancing her talents and developing managerial skills with a vision of returning to South Carolina to help run the family owned business.

She returned to South Carolina in 2007 and began to apply her experience to Collum's Lumber with the goal of ensuring the company remained a key producer of quality lumber products in the Southeast. Each year she has taken on increasing responsibilities, broadened her knowledge of each operational component and helping the company continue to experience significant growth.

Currently serving as Manager of Human Resources and Accounts Payable, she oversees two crucial aspects of the company's sustainability and competitiveness for the future. In addition, she has grasped the need for quality workforce development training for the region and has been leading the way in providing employment opportunities to locally and regionally trained applicants.

"Allendale County is proud to nominate Kimberli Scott for this award," said Allendale County Council Chairman James Pinkney. "We are proud to have this leading forest products company operating in our county, and we look forward to working with them for many years to come."

"Collum's Lumber plays a pivotal role in the regional economy," said Bill Robinson, SouthernCarolina Alliance's Economic Development Director and a County Councilman for Allendale County. "We appreciate each and every job that this family-owned company creates because each direct job improves the quality of life for another family in the area, and the economic stimulation from Collum's creates other indirect jobs throughout the region. We are pleased to see Kimberli and her company honored in this way."



## Bamberg County



David Felkel, President and CEO of Edisto Electric Cooperative, was named Bamberg County's 2014 Economic Ambassador for his dedicated efforts to improve the County's ability to offer prospective industry viable, fully served sites and buildings. Mr. Felkel has been instrumental in providing funds and support for infrastructure critical for development in CrossRhodes Industrial Park. The infrastructure significantly reduces time and expense for a prospective industry considering the industrial park as a site location for a new facility. Felkel has also committed significant financial support from Edisto Electric for the construction of a second speculative building in Bamberg County and continues to serve as a critical ally to Bamberg County and SouthernCarolina Alliance in economic development efforts.

"David Felkel's efforts have played an important role in our economic development projects in Bamberg County," said SouthernCarolina Alliance Chairman Johnny Williamson. "The support of Edisto Electric is critical in recruiting industries and in

helping our existing companies grow. Both power reliability and rates are key to these industries, and the help they can provide to the companies with infrastructure and financial support can make a project a reality."

"David's help has been critical in many of our existing industry expansions," said Kell Anderson, SCA's project manager for Bamberg County. "We are fortunate to have a strong economic development ally like David Felkel and Edisto Electric Cooperative in our area."

## Barnwell County

John Sanders, Sr., served as an economic ambassador for Barnwell County during his long career as a business and community leader in the region; this year, he was selected by the county to be honored posthumously for his leadership.

In a banking career that spanned thirty years, Mr. Sanders served as a Business Development Officer with Savannah River Banking Company of Aiken, South Carolina, after retiring as a Vice President with First Citizens Bank in Barnwell. During that time, he played a pivotal role in recruiting both businesses and families to the Barnwell area through his personal efforts in talking with company management to sell the area as a great place to live and work, as well in his professional role as a leader in the banking community.

As an active member of the Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors, Mr. Sanders also shaped economic development policy and recruitment efforts, bringing his expertise in business and finance to the organization's planning and implementation of industrial recruitment and marketing for the six-county area of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties.

A graduate of The Rutgers School of Banking and a US Air Force veteran, John Sanders served as chairman of the USC-Salkehatchie Education Foundation Partnership Board, a nonprofit organization responsible for the promotion of USC Salkehatchie's mission and fundraising for the endowment fund for USC-Salkehatchie, which serves a five-county area of South Carolina.

"I had the opportunity to serve with John on the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance Board," said Barnwell County Councilman Lowell Jowers. "He was dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life for our citizens and truly loved Barnwell County. He touched hundreds of lives."

"John represented our county well as a community banker who never hesitated to share his enthusiasm for Barnwell County with prospective companies or new families moving into the area," said Barnwell County Council Chairman Freddie Houston. "He also dedicated much of his personal time to economic development through his efforts with the Rotary Club, Southern Carolina Alliance, the USC Salk Foundation, and many other organizations."

In both his professional career and his civic involvement, John Sanders played a pivotal role in economic development in Barnwell County until his death on January 10, 2014.



## Colleton County



Bill Workman, Colleton County's Economic Ambassador, brings extensive experience to the economic development table as Chairman of the Colleton County Resource and Development Board and co-chair of the Colleton County Economic Alliance. He is gracious in offering his valuable expertise as he continues to stay informed and be involved in guiding and fostering economic development success in Colleton County.

His dedicated advocacy of economic development in South Carolina is proven by this track record, having served as Savannah River Maritime Commissioner, Economic Development LLC principal, Bluffton Town Manager, and as Mayor of the City of Greenville for twelve years. He also served as President of the S.C. Municipal Association and as a board member of the S.C. Downtown Development Association.

Bill has served in economic development in a myriad of ways, including his work as a founding board member of the Upstate Economic Alliance in S.C. and with the S.C. Literacy Association; a former corporate Vice President of Piedmont Natural Gas Company; an Industrial Consultant for Daniel (now Fluor) Corporation; Founder of the Greenville County Research and Technology Development Corporation; and founding chairman of the Greenville Area Development Corporation (GADC). In 2004, the GADC created the William D. Workman III "Buffalo Hunter Award," its highest honor, to recognize the individual or organization that has had the most significant positive impact on the local economy; last year Governor Haley became the first South Carolina governor to receive the annual award.

A member of the South Carolina Economic Developers Association, Workman was awarded both the "Volunteer of the Year" and "Distinguished Service Awards." Bill is also a retired Lieutenant Colonel of the United States Army and serves as a member of the Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

Earlier in his career, he was a reporter for the Charleston News and Courier and the Greenville News; Dean at Greenville Technical College; and one of Gov. Jim Edwards' executive assistants.

"We are fortunate to have the leadership of Bill Workman at the helm of the Colleton County Economic Alliance board and to have the opportunity to reap the benefits of his many years of experience in economic development in the public and private sectors," said Phillip Taylor, Chairman of Colleton County Council and a member of the Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors.

"With Bill Workman, we truly have the 'Godfather of Economic Development' lending his expertise to the Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors," said Southern Carolina Alliance President and CEO Danny Black. "His guidance has been and will continue to be invaluable to Colleton County, our region, and our state as we strive to improve our communities."

Born in Charleston, Mr. Workman is a graduate of The Citadel. He now lives in retirement in Walterboro with his wife, the former Patti Gage Fishburne.

## Hampton County

Hampton County named Jerry Tuten, President and CEO of Precision Machined Components, as their S.C. Economic Ambassador. Established in 2003, Precision Machined Components (PMC) is an integral part of the Hampton County existing industry base.

According to Sandy Fowler, Hampton County Economic Development Director, “Jerry Tuten works selflessly with Hampton County in many ways to strengthen not only his business, but the entire community. Hardworking and positive with a ‘can-do’ attitude, Jerry epitomizes positive leadership and his efforts demonstrate what can happen when businesses work with their community for the benefit of all.”

Fowler said that because Precision Machined Components utilizes cutting edge Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) equipment to manufacture their precision products, the company needs well trained CNC operators and programmers.

“To ensure that there would be a pool of highly skilled CNC operators in the rural community, Jerry stepped up to partner with Hampton County Economic Development Commission and the local campus of the Technical College of the Lowcountry to develop a program to ‘grow our own,’” said Fowler.

Tuten played an integral part in designing and planning a CNC lab at the local TCL campus; in addition, his participation was key to securing grant funds to purchase the CNC equipment needed to establish the training lab.

Bill Hager, Chairman of the Hampton County Economic Development Commission and a member of the Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors, added, “Once the CNC lab was remolded and operational, Jerry once again gave of his time to plan and fine tune the curriculum, insuring that the training would include all of the necessary components. Thanks in large part to his efforts, the CNC training program will include the skills training needed not only for his business but for other local industries who also employ CNC operators.”

Still in its infancy, the CNC lab offers great promise for Hampton County adults who are interested in upward mobility through skills acquisition and for the local industries needing skilled workers.

In nominating Jerry Tuten, the Hampton County Economic Development Commission wrote, “He gives his time to assist Hampton County Economic Development whenever needed, often providing local insight and data on workforce, realistic wage rates and other requested information. He is always available to meet with prospects to discuss the Hampton County economy and the positive, problem solving team that works together in our community to address, solve and support any issues our existing industries may have.”

Under Mr. Tuten’s leadership, PMC has grown from 7 to 16 employees and is poised for more growth.



## Jasper County

Jasper County’s S.C. Economic Ambassador, Warner Peacock, has been a supporter of Jasper County since 2001, when the idea for the New River Auto Mall (NRAM) was born. Since then, the number of Mr. Peacock’s auto dealerships has grown to 12, featuring 16 franchises selling more than 600 cars a month and employing more than 300 people.

In 2013, Mr. Peacock announced that he would locate a high-tech aluminum remanufacturing processing center in Jasper County near Ridgeland, which will be the first provider of this new technology in the Lowcountry and coastal Georgia.

The \$4 million investment and 25 new high-tech jobs is further testimony to Mr. Peacock’s commitment to and investment in the people of Jasper County. In response to Mr. Peacock’s bold decision to locate the New River Auto Mall just off I-95 in Jasper County, three additional dealerships independent of NRAM have located in the area, bringing even more jobs to the region.

“Warner Peacock and his team are to be commended for their innovation and success,” said Jasper County Council Chairman Henry Etheridge. “New River Auto Mall has been an important part of our business community for years, and the people of Jasper County appreciate that Mr. Peacock has chosen to once again invest in our county.”

According to Jasper County Chamber of Commerce Chairman Marty Sauls, the remanufacturing center will benefit the area beyond the initial jobs created. “This project involves job creation, renovation of an existing industrial building, additional capital investment and new revenue in the county, and indirect jobs and revenue for those involved in the retail and service operations in the surrounding area”, said Sauls, who also serves on Jasper County Council. “In short, the remanufacturing center is an important economic development engine in improving quality of life and in stimulating our local economy.”

“This announcement is more than an expansion for New River Auto Mall,” said Jasper County Council Vice-Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark. “It brings new technology and manufacturing to Jasper County. More importantly, 25 new jobs will directly affect the lives of 25 families in our area. That is why economic growth is critical to our future.”

“It was a huge event and a big celebration for Jasper County,” said SCA’s Jasper County Economic Developer Phil Richardson. “Warner Peacock has not only brought new jobs and investment to the county, his announcement represents the commitment and influence of one of the most successful businessmen in the automotive market in the Southeast. His ability to bring hundreds of people into the Jasper County area was evident at the announcement ceremony and every day at the remanufacturing center and automotive compound just off I-95.”

Located at 1667 N. Okatie Hwy. in Ridgeland, S.C., the NRAM Remanufacturing Facility was open for tours during the opening ceremony, which featured live music by Chris Paul and catering by SERG Catering.

“We’re thrilled to be able to show off our new facility to the local community,” said Warner Peacock, President & CEO of New River Auto Mall. “We are proud of what we have built, and know that people will be impressed.”

The facility will employ 25 people and represents an investment of more than \$4 million. A high-tech aluminum remanufacturing processing center, the New River Auto Mall is the first provider of this new technology in the Low-country and coastal Georgia.

New River Auto Mall, LLC is comprised of 9 dealerships featuring 15 franchises, including Audi, Chrysler, Dodge, Hyundai, Infiniti, Jeep, Jaguar, Land Rover, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Porsche, Ram, Subaru, and Volkswagen.



*Evening view of New River Auto Mall*

**Stratford Land** *continued from page 1*

benefit logistics and shippers operations and expansion plans, which will bring more jobs to Hardeeville.”

Stratford Land will provide sites for sale that are approved for warehousing, distribution and light industrial, commercial and mixed-use. The development is located just 4.5 miles from I-95 and 11 miles from the Savannah Port, the fourth busiest port in the country. It will serve as an inland port to the Savannah Port with rail connectivity for both the import and export of manufactured goods. With its convenient location near both rail and the heavily trafficked I-95, RiverPort Business Park also has immediate access north to consumer hubs along the Atlantic Seaboard and south to Miami, Florida.

“We strategically chose this site for RiverPort Business Park due to its proximity to the port region and convenient access to I-95 and Highway 17,” David Moore, Senior Director of Investments Southeastern U.S. at Stratford Land noted, “Location is key to developing a successful industrial and commercial real estate investment. RiverPort Business Park’s proximity to an intricate network of transportation corridors provides a considerable benefit to distributors and shippers operations and expansion plans. It is anticipated that RiverPort Business Park will attract both shippers looking to self-perform construction of owner/user facilities and developers looking to provide speculative facilities for lease. The industrial development will allow for more than 1.8 million square feet of development.”

“Riverport’s proximity to I-95, as well as the Ports of Charleston and Savannah, will give Jasper County an edge in attracting industrial development, both in manufacturing and distribution,” said SouthernCarolina Alliance President and CEO Danny Black. “SouthernCarolina Alliance will continue to work closely with Stratford to assist in development and to market this property for Jasper County. This groundbreaking is another important milestone in our efforts to bring good jobs to Jasper County.”



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