



SCA Breaks Ground on New Industrial Building

On July 7th, SouthernCarolina Alliance gathered partners for a groundbreaking to kick-off the construction of a 40,000 square-foot industrial building at the CrossRhodes Industrial Park in Bamberg County. Pictured above are: (L-R) Robert Hurst, Owner of Phoenix Specialty Manufacturing and SCA Board Member; Daniel Beaty, Buildings & Sites Specialist with the SC Department of Commerce; Angelyn F. Thomas, Business Development Manager with the SC Power Team; Trent Kinard, Bamberg County Councilman; Brian Hefner, Manager of Member Services with Edisto Electric; Josh Kay, Economic Development Director with Santee Cooper; Larry Haynes, Bamberg County Councilman and SCA Board Member; John Fleming, Principal with Hussey Gay Bell and SCA Board Member; Reverend Isaiah Odom, Bamberg County Councilman and SCA Board Member; and Kell Anderson, Project Manager for SCA. Construction should be completed by December 2015.



Alan Wilson, SC Attorney General, addresses the crowd at SCA's Annual Regional Celebration

Oakwood Products, Inc. Expanding in Hampton County

Company Announces a \$1 Million Investment in Estill, S.C.



**Oakwood
Chemical**
Enabling Discovery

Oakwood Products, Inc., a manufacturer of chemicals used in the pharmaceutical industry, is expanding its existing operations in Hampton County. The company's \$1 million investment is expected to result in 30 new jobs at its Estill, S.C.

facility, in addition to those currently employed in Hampton County.

Established in 1992 and headquartered in West Columbia, S.C., Oakwood Products produces a wide range of organics, with a particular emphasis on fluorine and sulfur compounds. The company also provides custom synthesis services.

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SouthernCarolina Alliance Holds Annual Regional Celebration

Vernita F. Dore, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) joined SouthernCarolina Regional Development Alliance as a surprise guest speaker at the economic development organization's Annual Regional Celebration, held on Thursday, May 14, at the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie, to share the news of the recent designation of the region as a Promise Zone.

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According to Oakwood Products President Greg Butler, "We are looking forward to growing our business in Hampton County, where the community has fully supported our operation. Their hard work made this project a reality. There have been vast improvements in communications and services that made a consolidation to one location and this expansion of our operations in Hampton possible."

"We're always excited to celebrate the success of one of our existing firms, but it's truly inspiring when that firm is one of South Carolina's homegrown businesses. Congratulations to Oakwood Products on this \$1 million investment and the 30 new jobs it will create, generating real opportunities for the people of Hampton County," said Governor Nikki Haley.

This expansion will be achieved with the purchase and renovation of a 47,000-square-foot building located in the Estill Industrial Park, adjacent to Oakwood's existing facility. The company is planning to up-fit the facility to house manufacturing operations and approximately 3,000 square feet of office space.

"Oakwood Products has been an asset to our industrial community," said Hampton County Council Chairman Shedron Williams. "We welcome the job creation and investment, and we are proud that the company will now employ more than 40 in direct jobs in our community."



**Oakwood
Chemical**
Enabling Discovery

According to Hampton County Councilman Buddy Phillips, Chairman of the SCA Board of Directors, "We stand ready to assist Oakwood Products in any way that we can. We appreciate their commitment to our people because every job created improves the quality of life for a family in our county."

Hiring for the 30 new positions has already begun. As hiring progresses, Oakwood Products will advertise all open positions in *The Hampton County Guardian* newspaper.

For more information on Oakwood Products, Inc., visit:

www.oakwoodchemical.com

Strickland Joins Alliance as Project Manager

Mr. Brantley Strickland has been named a Southern Carolina Alliance Project Manager, primarily focused on the Hampton County area, according to Danny Black, President and CEO of Southern Carolina Alliance.

Hampton County Council and Southern Carolina Alliance recently entered into an agreement calling for SCA to provide complete economic development services for the county, including marketing, industrial recruitment, project management, assistance with product development, and community enhancement.

As Project Manager, Strickland will work with industrial prospects and existing industries in the region to bring economic development projects at all stages to fruition. In addition, he will be involved in site location evaluation and marketing and recruitment efforts. He will work directly with local industry and community leaders, economic development commissions, county councils, the S.C. Department of Commerce and the regional alliance board.

Strickland, a former Managing Editor of *The Press and Standard* newspaper, most recently worked as Sports Editor of *The Times and Democrat*, a daily newspaper serving Orangeburg and surrounding counties. An award-winning journalist, he has extensive experience in marketing, broadcasting, management and production. Under his guidance, *The Press and Standard* won 28 awards in writing, design and photography; in his final

year at *The Press and Standard*, the publication was named top weekly publication in the state by the SC Press Association.

"We are impressed with Brantley's experience and expertise in collaboration with corporate executives, business owners, and individuals at all levels of a project," said Hampton County Economic Development Commission Chairman Bill Hager, "We look forward to working with him to attract industry and create jobs in our region."

"Brantley has worked professionally with business and community leaders around the state, particularly in this region," said Southern Carolina Alliance President Danny Black. "His leadership abilities and professional training will be assets to our organization."

A 2006 graduate of the University of South Carolina, Strickland is also a graduate of the Colleton County Leadership Class of 2014.

Brantley may be reached at:

bstrickland@southerncarolina.org or 843-909-0199



Orchids Paper Products Company Establishing Operations in Barnwell County

Investment Expected to Result in 134 New Jobs



Orchids Paper Products Company, (NYSE: TIS) a company that specializes in the manufacturing of high-quality, private label consumer tissue products, is establishing operations in Barnwell County. The company is investing at least \$110 million, with the potential for additional investment. The project is expected to create 134 new jobs in Barnwell, S.C.

Established in 1998 in Pryor, Okla., Orchids produces bulk tissue paper from both recycled and virgin fibers and converts it into a full product line of consumer tissue products, primarily supplying private label goods in the value, premium and ultra-premium-tier paper markets. The company currently manufactures products at its northeast Oklahoma facility and in Mexicali, Mexico through a strategic alliance with Fabrica de Papel San Francisco. Total paper capacity at these two sites is approximately 94,000 tons per year. The site in Barnwell, SC is expected to produce approximately 35-40,000 tons per year, boosting the company's total production by over one-third.

Located at 285 Midfield Road in Barnwell, S.C., Orchids' new South Carolina operations will initially focus on converting existing product currently shipped from the company's other facilities. Build out and startup of the converting lines will come in phases, with the first line expected to become operational at the end of 2015, and the second line expected to become operational in the second quarter of 2016. As the company adds paper production, engineering and construction of the paper machine is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2016 and be operational by the beginning of 2017. Orchids' Barnwell County operations will allow the company to better serve its growing Southeastern customer base.

"Today, we celebrate Orchids Paper Products Company and its investment in one of our rural counties. The company's capital investment of more than \$110 million means more than 130 jobs in Barnwell, it's another victory for our entire state, and we couldn't be more excited to watch them grow for a very long time," said Governor Nikki Haley.

"This project will be a major step forward in our vision to become a national supplier of high quality consumer tissue products. Following a thorough analysis of the important aspects of a greenfield site, such as our current customer base and growth opportunities, logistics, workforce skills and abilities, and local and state incentives, we chose Barnwell for our first greenfield site. From the Governor to the Department of Commerce to Barnwell County's economic development team to the city of Barnwell, we found South Carolina to be very responsive to our company's business needs," said Orchids Paper Products Company President and CEO Jeff Schoen.



Jeff Schoen, CEO of Orchids Paper Products Company, is joined by local and state leaders at the June 23rd, groundbreaking of the Barnwell County facility.

"We appreciate the 134 direct jobs that Orchids Paper Products will bring to Barnwell County, as well as the economic impact that these jobs and this investment will ultimately have on the area. Good jobs build communities and opportunities."

~ SouthernCarolina Alliance Chairman Buddy Phillips

"We welcome Orchids Paper Products to our community, and our economic development commission hopes to be of service to this industry in the future. We will do everything we can to help this company thrive and prosper in Barnwell County. Our workforce and our county leadership value good jobs," said Barnwell County Economic Development Commission Chairman Tommy Boyleston

Initial hiring for the Barnwell facility is expected to begin in August 2015. Hiring for all production, maintenance, and clerical positions will take place through South Carolina Works. Additional advertisements for these positions will take place closer to August.

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development approved a \$1.9 million Closing Fund grant to Barnwell County to assist with the costs of infrastructure improvements and site preparation as well as job development credits related to the project.

For more information on Barnwell County and SouthernCarolina Alliance, visit the website: www.southerncarolina.org.

Southern Carolina Alliance Region Wins Promise Zone Designation to Build Community Prosperity

On April 28, 2015, The Obama Administration announced that the Southern Carolina Alliance region had been named one of eight Promise Zones in the country, including six cities, one rural area, and one tribal community.

Promise Zones are poverty challenged communities where the federal government partners with local leaders to increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, leverage private investment, reduce violent crime, enhance public health and address other priorities identified by the community. Through the Promise Zone designation, these communities will work directly with federal, state and local agencies to give local leaders proven tools to improve the quality of life in some of the country's most vulnerable areas.

"The Promise Zone designation for our region creates exciting opportunities for our people," said Southern Carolina Alliance President and CEO Danny Black. "As the lead regional organization in this effort, we look forward to working with our partners at the municipal, county, regional, state and federal levels, in both the public and private sectors, to identify, pursue and implement programs that will bring real economic development, community development and workforce training opportunities to our communities."

The Southern Carolina Alliance region includes the counties of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Hampton, Colleton and Jasper Counties.

While the region flourished after the early 1950's construction and subsequent operation of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, coupled with an abundant textile manufacturing economy, the region has suffered economically since the late 1980's, when the construction of I-95 from Maine to Florida was finally completed. The redirection of both tourism and trucking traffic from US Highway 301 and other local transportation routes to I-95 hurt the retail and commercial sectors of the economy, especially through Allendale and Bamberg Counties. The passage of NAFTA in 1994 and the off-shoring of the U.S. textile industry followed a few years later, coinciding with the downsizing of the region's largest employer, the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, which began layoffs in 1995.

Southern Carolina Alliance was organized as a regional non-profit economic development organization in 1996 to help offset these losses, and the region has since significantly diversified its economy. The region now boasts strong lumber and building products, industrial and commercial machinery, alternative energy, distribution and plastics/rubber/composites sectors. With the growing automotive and aerospace clusters in South Carolina and Georgia, existing and prospective industries are finding more opportunities in the six-county region for manufacturing and distribution opportunities. In addition, with the growing population in our state and across the Southeast, the region could see growth in the agribusiness sector, such as packaging and processing.

Black and the team at Southern Carolina Alliance hope that The Promise Zone will assist the region in preparing for these opportunities in economic development.

Black added, "There are challenges in our rural communities that need to be addressed, including infrastructure needs, educational challenges, improved workforce training, healthcare delivery, and community and economic development assistance. We will work closely with the USDA and other federal partners to



Allendale County Promise Zone Community Meeting



Barnwell County Promise Zone Community Meeting



Jasper County Promise Zone Community Meeting

leverage public and private investment to bring real progress and opportunity to the region, especially in the creation of private sector jobs.”

To highlight the rural zone designations of the SouthernCarolina Alliance region and South Dakota’s Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Secretary Tom Vilsack hosted media calls for South Carolina and South Dakota. SCA President Danny Black had the opportunity to discuss the grant designation with the Secretary.

The Promise Zone communities were selected from 123 applications from 36 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, DC. Each urban, rural, and tribal Promise Zone applicant was asked to put together a clear description of how the Promise Zone

designation would accelerate and strengthen the community’s own efforts at comprehensive community revitalization. Each Promise Zone will be coordinated by a lead community based organization in partnership with the Obama Administration. HUD will be the federal lead for the six urban designees, while USDA will serve as the lead federal partner to the tribal and rural Promise Zones.

All Promise Zones will receive priority access to federal investments that further their strategic plans, federal staff on the ground to help them implement their goals, and five full-time AmeriCorps VISTA members to recruit and manage volunteers and strengthen the capacity of the Promise Zone initiatives.

For more information, visit the website: www.scpromisezone.org



SCA held community listening sessions as part of the Promise Zone strategic planning process in every county. (L-R) Bamberg, Colleton and Hampton County Promise Zone Community Meetings.



Remembering Senator Clementa Pinckney

Until his death on June 17th, 2015, The Reverend Honorable Clementa C. Pinckney served as State Senator for much of the SouthernCarolina Alliance region, representing Allendale, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties as part of Senate District 45. Born July 30, 1973, he was the son of Mr. John Pinckney and the late Theopia

Stevenson Pinckney of Ridgeland, South Carolina. Educated in the public schools of Jasper County, Senator Pinckney was a magna cum laude graduate of Allen University with a degree in Business Administration. While there, Reverend Pinckney served as freshman class president, student body president, and senior class president. At the time, *Ebony* magazine recognized Rev. Pinckney as one the “Top College Students in America”. During his junior year, he received Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson Summer Research Fellowship in the fields of public policy and international affairs. He received a graduate fellowship to the University of South Carolina where he earned a Master’s degree in Public Administration. He completed a Master’s of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

Rev. Pinckney answered the call to preach at the age of thirteen and received his first appointment to pastor at the age of eighteen. He served as the pastor of historic Mother Emanuel A.M.E. in Charleston, South Carolina, which is where he was killed, along with eight other parishioners on June 17th during a prayer service.

Rev. Pinckney was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1996 at the age of twenty-three. In 2000,

he was elected to the State Senate at the age of twenty-seven, making him one of the youngest persons and the youngest African-American in South Carolina to be elected to the State Legislature. His committee assignments included Senate Finance, Banking and Insurance, Transportation, Medical Affairs and Corrections and Penology. *Washington Post* columnist David Broder called Rev. Pinckney a “political spirit lifter for surprisingly not becoming cynical about politics.”

Rev. Pinckney served in many other ways in the state, including service as a college trustee and corporate board member. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer, and two children, Eliana and Malana.

The day before his untimely death, Senator Pinckney contacted SCA President Danny Black once again to discuss economic and community development issues in the region. Mr. Black gave him an update on several projects, and they talked about opportunities for growth in the region. Senator Pinckney discussed his desire to attend the upcoming SCA Board of Directors meeting and pledged to do everything he could to assist SCA in our mission of improving the quality of life for our citizens through job creation.

On Friday, June 26, Clementa Pinckney was honored at a funeral service attended by thousands and watched by millions; he was eulogized by the President of the United States. Since his death, the people of South Carolina have shown unprecedented unity, and the Confederate Flag was removed from the State House grounds.

In both his life and death, Senator Clementa Pinckney of Ridgeland, South Carolina, influenced innumerable people and left a legacy of leadership and love for the Southern Carolina region of our state.

2015 SC Economic Ambassadors



Robert Connelly, Jr. is pictured with Governor Nikki Haley and Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt



Robert Chatman is pictured with Governor Nikki Haley and Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt



Kay Still is pictured with Governor Nikki Haley and Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt

Robert Connelly, Jr., Allendale County - The owner of Connelly Farms and Farmers Grain and Supply, Inc., in the Town of Ulmer, Robert Connelly is a second-generation agribusiness owner and has earned the respect and admiration of his peers as the recipient of numerous awards, including the "Master Farm Family in South Carolina" in 1983 by Clemson University and Progressive Farmer magazine.

Robert has spent over 50 years in the farming/farming supply business but has also been equally involved in his community. As an avid supporter of higher education, he has been the prime sponsor of the University of South Carolina - Salkehatchie's annual "Appreciation Event" for supporters and students.

A member of the Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors, Connelly has participated in assisting with several projects producing jobs in the region. With his family involvement in every aspect of the farm and business, their contribution to the prosperity of Allendale County and the SCA region is being written with each passing day.

Robert Chatman, Bamberg County - For the past 10 years, Robert Chatman has served as Chairman of the Lower Savannah Council of Governments' development corporation, making low interest economic development loans and providing much needed infrastructure support for start-up companies in the Southern Carolina region. Mr. Chatman has also represented Bamberg County on the Bamberg County Economic Development Commission and is an advisory board member of Southern Carolina Alliance.

As a retired educator, Mr. Chatman has also taken an interest in workforce training and has routinely provided youth with interview skills coaching.

In addition, Mr. Chatman has been involved with the planning of Bamberg's speculative building program and assisted with the planning and refurbishment of a number of Bamberg County industrial buildings.

Robert is a life-long resident of Denmark and served as Chairman of the Bamberg Economic Development Commission, where he has been an important player in bringing economic development projects to fruition.

Kay Still, Barnwell County - A former Senior Vice President with Regions Bank, Kay Still played a pivotal role in recruiting both businesses and families to the Barnwell area through her personal efforts, as well as in her professional role as a leader in the banking community until her retirement in 2007.

Well after retirement, she has remained a leader in building economic development efforts in the county, working through numerous civic efforts and organizations, including serving as Chairman of the Barnwell County Economic Development Commission, Chairman of the Barnwell County Chamber of Commerce and later as Chairman of Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors (2007-2009).

An advocate for workforce development, the successful implementation of a regional WorkKeys® certification pilot program was implemented under her leadership in the region from 2007 to 2009.

Ms. Still was also a key leader in brokering the historic collaborative effort that formed a multi-county revenue sharing agreement among the counties of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Hampton.

Under Kay Still's leadership, several critical economic development projects were won, including the Crane Dixie Narco expansion.

Currently, she continues her advocacy of economic development and serves as a member of the Rural Development Authority.

Individuals and companies from every county in South Carolina were recognized on April 3rd for the many contributions they provide to their communities and to economic development as part of the 23rd 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 Southern Carolina Alliance region, several prominent leaders were honored.

Gabriel Pascual, Colleton County - As Senior Advisor of Crescent Dairy & Beverages, Mr. Pascual's site selection team helped the company in their decision to locate in Walterboro, South Carolina last year, where they plan to create 60 jobs and invest \$30 million in a milk processing and packaging facility.

Mr. Pascual led the assessment of sixteen states and numerous sites before the selection team chose South Carolina and the Colleton County Commerce Center for their project. He worked closely with ReadySC to train and hire the initial staff and continues to oversee plant growth.

Passion for private enterprise creation has been demonstrated through his entire career by having effectively established and managed numerous small and medium enterprises throughout Europe, the United States and the Americas in the areas of food and dairy processing, commercial distribution and not-for-profit industry associations. His entrepreneurial experience spans more than 25 years in international trade and private sector development in over 40 countries and has made him a proven multinational value chain advisor.

Kim and Russ Crowe, Hampton County - Kim and Russ Crowe founded Progressive Packaging in Simpsonville, SC, in 1995. With markets increasing in Georgia and Florida, Progressive Packaging opened their Hampton County location in 2014, purchasing an existing building located in the Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park in Early Branch, to serve their growing markets.

Beginning as a distribution center, the Crowes have intentions of growing the Hampton facility by adding assembly and light manufacturing. They have already engaged the local community, focusing on buying locally whenever possible and hosting Chamber of Commerce and local officials.

Bradley S. Talbert, Jasper County - As CEO of Coastal Carolina Hospital since August 2012, Brad oversees strategic, operational and clinical activities for the 41-bed hospital. Under his leadership, Coastal Carolina Hospital received Tenet's 2013 Circle of Excellence Award for the second consecutive year. Coastal Carolina Hospital is one of nine Tenet hospitals recognized for superior achievement in the areas of quality care, service excellence and operational performance.

A new obstetrics and gynecology program was launched in the spring of 2014 by expanding the hospital's women's health services and preparing to deliver newborns in Hardeeville for the first time in eight years. This new unit created 45 new jobs for nurses and other quality healthcare professionals.

Under Talbert's leadership and as part of CCH recycling and waste reduction efforts, the hospital continuously looks for ways to embrace environmentally friendly practices and products. Teamed with a local company, Be Green Packaging, to reduce the use of Styrofoam plates and bowls, the hospital recently started using plates and bowls made of plant fibers. Designed by Be Green Packaging, the products are touted as being more environmentally friendly once disposed.

Talbert holds a bachelor's degree in finance from Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C. and a master's degree in health administration from the Medical University in South Carolina. He is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE).



Gabriel Pascual is pictured with Governor Nikki Haley and Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt



Kim and Russ Crowe are pictured with Governor Nikki Haley and Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt



Bradley S. Talbert is pictured with Governor Nikki Haley and Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt

SouthernCarolina Alliance Holds Annual Regional Celebration

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“President Obama believes that every child should have an opportunity to succeed,” said Dore, a South Carolinian, who added that she grew up in the Lowcountry of South Carolina and knew the impact of poverty on the lives of families.

She said that with the Promise Zone designation, for the next decade, “the federal government will offer preference to the region in some funding and technical assistance opportunities.”

Dore cautioned that the Promise Zone designation “is not a silver bullet” but will take collaboration for success.

The keynote speaker of the evening was Deb Sofield, a renowned speaker, author and radio host, who provided an entertaining presentation, “Misfits, Mavericks, Renegades and Rascals,” which incorporated the values of perseverance, leadership and collaboration.

Her “lesson in leadership” centered upon “misfits, mavericks, rascals and renegades” who have four traits in common. Those traits are the ability to encourage others, having a vision, leaving a lasting legacy and staying power.

In her remarks, Sofield said that “staying power” sets successful people apart from others.

“They never give up,” she said, adding that, “This area will bloom if you have the staying power to see it through.”

South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson also joined SouthernCarolina Alliance as a speaker for the event and thanked Secretary Dore for the USDA’s help with funding to combat food stamp fraud in the state.

Wilson addressed accomplishments in South Carolina in the areas of human trafficking and criminal domestic violence, among others. He pledged his support to assist SouthernCarolina Alliance and local law enforcement in creating safe, business friendly and family oriented communities.

More than 250 business and community leaders from the six-county region attended the event, which concluded with the recognition of the graduates of the regional leadership program, “Leadership Salkehatchie,” a partnership of SouthernCarolina Alliance and the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie’s Leadership Institute.

SCA President and CEO Danny Black emceed the event, recognizing outgoing SCA Chairman of the Board Johnny Williamson and retiring Board Member April Lucas of the Nexsen Pruet Law Firm.



Vernita F. Dore, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for the United States Department of Agriculture, pictured with Danny Black, President and CEO of SCA



Deb Sofield, renowned speaker, author and radio host, is pictured with Johnny Williamson, SCA’s past Chairman



Graduates of the Leadership Salkehatchie program (l-r): Kevin Braddock, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones; William Robinson, Assistant Director of Emergency Management; Jacob Baker, Boy Scouts of America; Jonathan Vickery, Managing Editor of The People Sentinel; Kristin Huber, PR/PI Specialist for SRNS; Heather Ulmer, School-to-Work Coordinator at Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School; Kimberli Scott, Owner and HR Manager at Collum’s Lumber Products; Arlene Washington, Executive Director of Lowcountry Community Action Agency



Attending SCA’s Annual Regional Celebration are (l-r): Juan Singleton, Interim City Manager of Hardeeville; Phil Richardson, Project Manager for SCA; Bronco Bostick, Mayor of Hardeeville and SCA Board Member; Ike Byrd, Regional Director of External Affairs for AT&T and SCA Board Member

Southern Carolina Alliance Elects Phillips as Chairman

Charles H. “Buddy” Phillips of Hampton County has been elected Chairman of Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance (SCA), the regional economic development organization representing Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties.

As Chairman of the organization, Phillips will lead a 38-member board of directors in overseeing economic development projects and industrial recruitment. Serving as officers with Phillips will be Marty Sauls of Jasper County, who was elected First Vice Chairman; Bill Workman of Colleton County, who was elected Second Vice Chairman; and Bob Hurst of Bamberg County, who was elected as Treasurer.

A member of the Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors since 2012, Buddy Phillips also serves as a member of Hampton County Council. Working with the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie in Allendale and Walterboro, he presently serves as Interim Director of Undergraduate Education for the university.

Before beginning his career in education, Buddy worked for Pan American Airlines on San Salvador in the British West Indies on the 1960 – 1961 NASA Project. In his career as an educator, Mr. Phillips taught in Duval County Schools in Jacksonville, Florida before teaching in Jasper County Schools in South Carolina. He then served as the principal of Fennell Elementary School in Yemassee, S. C., and later as headmaster of Patrick Henry Academy in Hampton County. Mr. Phillips is well known in the Lowcountry as the former Superintendent for Hampton School District One, where he led education efforts until his retirement in 2003.

Mr. Phillips was the Mayor of Hampton from 1976 to 1979 and in 1989 was appointed to State Board of Education, where he was elected chairman in 1991. In 2003, he was honored as South Carolina’s State Superintendent of the Year.

He is married to Joanne Knopf Phillips, who is an artist and cosmetologist. They currently reside in Estill and have two daughters and three grandchildren.

SCA’s other officers include **Marty Sauls** of Jasper County, who was elected First Vice Chairman. Sauls, who chairs the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce, is a member of Jasper County Council and is an agent with S.C. Farm Bureau.

Bill Workman, Chairman of the Colleton County Economic Alliance, was elected Southern Carolina Alliance’s Second Vice Chairman. A retired businessman and leader in economic development in the state, Workman is the former Mayor of Greenville, South Carolina.

Bob Hurst of Bamberg County, President and CEO of Phoenix Specialty Manufacturing, was elected as Treasurer. Hurst’s family-owned manufacturing company is a major employer in Bamberg County.

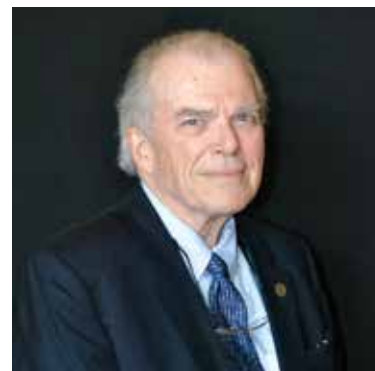
The newly elected officers will work with the organization’s executive committee and board of directors in implementing a regional program of work designed to attract industry to the six-county area.



Charles H. “Buddy” Phillips, Chairman



L. Martin Sauls, IV, First Vice Chairman



Bill Workman, Second Vice Chairman



Robert Hurst, Treasurer

SouthernCarolina Alliance Salutes Johnny Williamson

For His Service as Chairman



The SouthernCarolina Alliance Board of Directors and staff salute Mr. Johnny Williamson, who served as Chairman of the Board until the recent election of new officers in April 2015.

A lifelong resident of Denmark, Mr. Williamson is a successful entrepreneur and businessman whose dedication to improving the quality of life for others in our area through economic development has helped to shape the future of his county and region. Not only is Mr. Williamson the President of Williamson Ginnery in Denmark, he also serves as Board Chairman of the Jackson Companies and President of Carolina Eastern-Williamson. In the past Williamson has served as Managing Partner of Lynchburg Grain, Managing Partner of Carolina Soya and Board Member of Ecogy Biofuels.

Johnny has also spent the last decade in a voluntary leadership role in economic development and industrial recruitment for his community. He has been instrumental in building SouthernCarolina Alliance since its inception. During that time, he has volunteered his time to meet with industrial prospects both domestically and abroad in recruitment efforts, and he has played a critical role in creating the historic multi-county revenue sharing agreement among Bamberg, Barnwell,

Allendale and Hampton Counties. His efforts were vital in the recruitment of more than a dozen projects, including Kronotex and Grant Forest Products.

In addition to his service as a Chairman of the Board of Directors of SouthernCarolina Alliance, Mr. Williamson is a Past Chairman of the Palmetto AgriBusiness Council, the former Vice Chairman of the S.C. Bio-Mass Council, a former member of the Executive Committee of the S.C. Transportation and Policy Council, and current member of the Board of Directors of South State Bank, the S.C. Landowners Association and the S.C. Sportsman's Caucus Foundation.

Through his past work with Carolina Soya and Ecogy Biofuels, Johnny Williamson helped to create a market for local soybean producers while establishing the first operational fully integrated biodiesel facility in the Southeastern United States. Mr. Williamson remains actively engaged in the exploration of cutting edge technologies in other agricultural and alternative energy industry fields.

A true proponent of capitalism and economic development, Johnny Williamson is also an avid outdoorsman who has pursued wild game around the world. His ability to trap alligators for wildlife management has earned him widespread media attention and the nickname, "Alligator Johnny."

Mr. Williamson and his wife, Kaki, have two children and reside on the banks on the Edisto River just outside of Denmark, SC.

SouthernCarolina Alliance has been fortunate to have the leadership of Chairman Williamson, who will continue to serve as a member of the SCA Board of Directors.

WELCOME: --- New Members of the SCA Board of Directors

Steve Murdaugh

Colleton County Council

Steven D. "Steve" Murdaugh joined the law firm of Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth and Detrick's Walterboro office in 2009. In addition to holding a Juris Doctor degree, Steve is also licensed as a Certified Public Accountant. Prior to joining the law firm, Steve managed and operated a full service accounting firm in Walterboro for approximately 15 years. A 1988 graduate of The Citadel, Steve graduated from the Charleston School of Law in December of 2008 and was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 2009.

After fulfilling his commitment to the U.S. Army, Steve worked for the Office of the South Carolina State Auditor in Columbia, S.C. for approximately three years and has since worked in Public Accounting until joining the law firm. Since joining the firm Steve has practiced in the area of personal injury including automobile accidents, premise liability cases and workers compensation claims as well as business litigation issues.

A member of Colleton County Council, Steve also serves on the Walterboro-Colleton County Airport Commission. Steve and his wife Valerie reside in Walterboro, S.C. along with their four sons.



Mike Benjamin

Energy Solutions

Mike Benjamin is the Director of Operations for EnergySolutions in Barnwell, South Carolina. With over 40 years of experience in the nuclear field, Mr. Benjamin has experience with management of disposal operations, customer and regulatory interface and regulatory compliance. In his current position, his primary responsibility is the management of the Barnwell Disposal Facility.

A past member of Williston Town Council, Williston School District 29 Board of Trustees, and the Barnwell Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Mike also holds a number of professional society and association memberships.

Mike earned an associates degree in Nuclear Technology from Trident Technology College in Charleston, South Carolina, and is a lifelong resident of South Carolina. He resides in Williston with his wife, Vickie.

Deepal Eliatamby

Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Deepal S. Eliatamby, P.E., SCCED, is the President of Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc., a professional engineering firm with offices in Bluffton, Charleston, Columbia and Greenville, South Carolina, and Charlotte, North Carolina. In 2012 and 2013, his firm was named by *SC Biz News* as one of the "Fastest Growing Companies Headquartered in South Carolina," and in 2014, the company was named by *Engineering News Record* as one of the "Top 100 Design Firms in the Southeastern United States."

A graduate of the University of South Carolina, Deepal holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Civil Engineering and has over 25 years of experience in a wide variety of engineering projects, including park master planning and development, industrial and commercial site development, storm-water management and solid waste management, and municipal and wastewater system improvements. He is actively involved in alumni activities and committees for the University of South Carolina, where he is a member of the Alumni Association's Board of Governors Executive Committee and a member of the Industrial Advisory Board of the University of South Carolina's College of Engineering and Information Technology.

A registered professional engineer in seven states, Deepal is Past President of the S.C. Economic Developers Association and is a member of many professional boards and associations and is the recipient of numerous awards for his service in economic development and his professional work in engineering.





SouthernCarolina Alliance
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Around the Region:



SCANA Invests in SCA

Economic Development and Local Government Representatives Scott Neely and Brand Samuel, who is also a member of the SCA Board of Directors, presented Buddy Phillips, Chairman of SCA's Board, with a contribution towards the organizations regional marketing efforts.



Community Development Block Grants Awarded to Local Communities

More than 30 communities across the state are slated to benefit from public improvement projects supported by nearly \$16.3 million in funds from the latest round of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The South Carolina Department of Commerce is awarding CDBG funds to the following municipalities in the Southern Carolina Region:

- Colleton County, Bama Road Drainage Improvements*
- City of Denmark, Booker/Mills Water Upgrade*
- Town of Hampton, Jackson Street Sewer Line Upgrades*
- City of Hardeeville, Boyd Street Area Drainage Improvements*

Commerce awards CDBG funds in the fall and the spring of each year. Selected through a statewide competitive process, local governments receiving CDBG funding are required to provide at least a 10 percent match in funding to complete the projects.

Grant funds are allocated on an annual basis to South Carolina from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. CDBG assists communities in providing housing, a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunities.

Kronotex USA Gives Back to Community

Kronotex USA, a manufacturer of Wood laminate floors located in Barnwell County, donated \$7,500 to the Barnwell County Fire Coordinator and Snelling Fire Chief. The company raised the money through their inaugural Dean Scarbeary Memorial Golf Tournament for Charity held in the spring.