



Darlington County
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Update

IN THE NEWS



Apprenticeship program benefits students and businesses

by Ardie Aridson, *Hartsville Messenger*, November 21, 2018

"In an attempt to interest local businesses in hiring high school apprentices, Apprenticeship Carolina held a Youth Apprenticeship Accelerator meeting at The Edition in Hartsville on Thursday, Nov. 15, during National Apprenticeship Week. The event included a panel discussion with business leaders and students who have participated in registered apprenticeship programs.

The event was hosted by Apprenticeship Carolina of the SC Technical College System, Darlington County Progress and the Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce.

On the panel were Barry Godwin, CFO Stingray Boats; Danny Johnson, vice president, North Industrial Machine, Landon Steen, Youth Apprentice at Stingray Boats and Josh Armstrong, former Youth Apprentice and current employee at North Industrial Machine.

The Darlington County Institute of Technology was also represented on the panel by Robbie Smith, director of DCIT.

Fearn Gupton, apprenticeship consultant, explained how the program works. Through the program youth are able to combine classroom education with on-the-job training while earning a paycheck. Employers are able to mold and shape potential future employees and "build a solid workforce pipeline for the future."

[Read more here](#)

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PROGRESS MEMBERS

Next Board meeting:
January 10, 2019
at noon at SIMT

Share your news

Do you or your company have any Darlington County news to share?

If so, email us [here](#) and we'll include it in our next newsletter and on our website.

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Contact Us

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Local Graduate: Lewis Brown

State and Community Leaders Graduate from SC Economic Development Training Program

SC Commerce, November 16, 2018

"COLUMBIA, S.C. - The S.C. Department of Commerce (S.C. Commerce) and S.C. Economic Developers' Association (SCEDA) today announced that 49 state and community leaders have graduated from a statewide economic development training program, the S.C. Economic Development Institute (Institute).

"The Institute has long been a powerful tool in South Carolina's economic development arsenal," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt. "The success South Carolina has enjoyed in recent years can, in large part, be attributed to the remarkable amount of collaboration and teamwork that has taken place across this state. Programs like the Institute help us ensure that our team is knowledgeable, innovative and unified."

A collaborative effort between S.C. Commerce and SCEDA, the program is designed to arm participants with innovative development approaches for implementation in local communities. The program features a highly-interactive curriculum, allowing participants to obtain greater hands-on economic development learning experience."

[Read more here](#)



At last, Lamar leaping onto high-speed Internet

By Samantha Lyles, News and Press Online, December 4, 2018

"A 10-year campaign to bring broadband Internet to the town of Lamar has finally paid off. Charter Communications and Spectrum Cable announced last week that they will invest \$1 million to build a state-of-the-art network in the Lamar community.

"Internet is obviously a necessity. It is not a luxury. Rural communities all over are struggling to try and retain young people, and Internet is a must," said Ben Breazeale, senior director of government affairs for Charter Communications. "I promise you all - and I'm not just putting on my corporate hat here - it's going to transform this community. This is 100 megabits of Internet going to almost every house in Lamar."

Breazeale said the new network will cover every street in town, and installation should be complete in late March or early April 2019. He

also announced that Charter-Spectrum will offer special pricing plans for lower-income customers.

"We have the most robust affordable Internet product on the market, which is called Spectrum Internet Assist," Breazeale said.

[Read more here](#)

DCEDP SPOTLIGHT: Workforce Training



Florence-Darlington Technical College receives \$59,000 grant for manufacturing employers

Florence (WBTW) December 5, 2018

"Florence-Darlington Technical college was awarded \$59,000 that will help students who are interested in joining the manufacturing program.

'ManuFirst SC' was initially developed by Trident technical college. This program gave students with no manufacturing experience a fast track to recruitment and training.

"Department of Commerce, department of education, workforce, and the state technical college system all were very happy with the success of that program. They have made funds available for colleges to launch the program statewide," said associate vice presidents for corporate and workforce development Lauren Holland.

The grant will help students pay for tuition and the 62-hour program will provide an accelerated pathway to entry level industry careers.

"It's just a great opportunity for people who are unemployed or just as importantly for people who are underemployed, maybe in debt job with no benefits to get an opportunity to work for a really solid company," said Holland.

The program is expected to begin January 7th and January 8th. Once students finish 'ManuFirst SC' they will be able to apply to Ruiz Foods, Sonoco, McCall farms, and Beneteau.

"It presents a huge opportunity for our students to go to work for a really good company. They hire students, they do training with us, and this is a really good way to help support them and help the workforce development," said Holland.

Florence-Darlington Technical College will be hosting an information session on this program on December 11-12th."

[Read more here](#)



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