



*Darlington County*  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

# Quarterly Update

## IN THE NEWS

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### **Byerly Foundation, Hartsville working to city's save small businesses**

by [Matthew Christian, Florence Morning News, May 6, 2020](#)

"HARTSVILLE, S.C. - The Byerly Foundation and other organizations are working to save the small businesses in Hartsville affected by the shutdowns initiated to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The foundation approved an initial grant of \$150,000 for the All-America City Comeback Business 2020 Campaign. Since the initial funding by the Byerly Foundation, several other organizations including North Industrial Machine and the Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce have also contributed to the campaign.

Hartsville became an All-American City in 2016.

The campaign would provide short-term relief to brick-and-mortar businesses within the city limits of Hartsville that are losing revenue because of COVID-19 through a small-business-stabilization forgivable loan program.

The program is designed to benefit businesses with 50 employees or less.

Priority would be given to businesses with 10 or fewer employees with part-time employees being converted into full-time equivalents. Priority would also be given to the most vulnerable business owners."

[Read more here](#)

## In This Issue

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**In the News**  
**A Note from DCEDP**

## PROGRESS MEMBERS

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Next Board meeting\*:  
June 4, 2020  
at noon via Zoom  
(tentative)

Industry Appreciation Event:  
Postponed until further notice due  
to Covid-19

## Share your news

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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.

## [Join Our Mailing List](#)

## Contact Us

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## Coker University names Dr. Natalie Harder as school's 17th president

from Staff Reports, Florence Morning News, May 7, 2020

"HARTSVILLE, S.C. - Coker University has named Dr. Natalie Harder, current chancellor South Louisiana Community College, its 17th president.

"In Dr. Harder we've found a leader who is truly unique in her commitment to expanding student opportunities and student success," said Angie Stanland, chairman of Coker's board of trustees. "Her track record is shaped by her expertise in building a culture of excellence and integrity, her emphasis on cross-disciplinary collaboration, and her devotion to developing community engagement. Dr. Harder is a nationally recognized leader in higher education who has demonstrated the type of strong, dynamic, and enlightened leadership that will propel Coker in new directions."

In the nationwide search, Harder emerged as the top choice from a diverse pool of more than 100 applicants. Among the finalists, she received the unanimous recommendation of the presidential search committee, which consisted of Coker University trustees, staff, faculty, students, and alumni, and a unanimous vote from the board of trustees."

[Read more here](#)



## Darlington County Library System donates face shields to Carolina Pines

by Ardie Arvidson, Florence Morning News, April 26, 2020

"HARTSVILLE, S.C. - The Darlington County Library System used its 3D printers to make face shields to go over masks and donated them to Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center.

"It started with a conversation three or four weeks ago with another library director talking about what we could do to help (during the coronavirus pandemic) while the library is closed to the public," said Jimmie Epling, director of the Darlington County Library.

He discovered a need for face shields at Carolina Pines, and he and his team wasted no time putting their 3D printers to use and creating face shields for frontline staff to utilize during the COVID-1 crisis and PPE

shortage.

After a couple of tries, Epling said their IT person, Antonio Fernandez, came up with a design that would work. The 3D printer prints one layer, delays during drying, then prints the next layer, Epling said. He said one design he tried proved to be too bulky.

The library system has six 3D printers, and it took approximately three hours to print one shield, Epling said."

[Read more here](#)



## **NASCAR to return to racing on May 17 at Darlington Raceway**

by WMBF News Staff, April 30, 2020

"DARLINGTON, S.C. (WMBF) - NASCAR announced on Thursday it will start its engines back up, and it will all begin at the Darlington Raceway.

The 2020 NASCAR Cup Series and NASCAR Xfinity Series seasons, which have been delayed since mid-March due to the coronavirus, will resume in May at the Darlington Raceway.

The NASCAR Cup Series will race on Sunday, May 17 and the Xfinity Series will be two days later on Tuesday, May 19. The track will also host an additional Cup Series event on Wednesday, May 20.

"It's an honor for Darlington Raceway to resume the 2020 NASCAR season in just a few short weeks with three races in four days. Darlington is one of the most iconic and historic tracks in the sport and will be a tremendous backdrop when NASCAR returns to racing. We certainly appreciate the support from our state's leadership in working with NASCAR to allow us to host these events," said Darlington Raceway President Kerry Tharp.

As our nation restarts, I can think of no better place for NASCAR to drop the green flag than at Darlington Raceway in South Carolina. - Gov. Henry McMaster

Unfortunately, fans will not be able to attend these race events. They will be able to follow along on all Darlington Raceway's social channels for minute-by-minute event information and action."

[Read more here](#)

## **A Note from DCEDP**

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*We know that the last month or so has been very difficult for our communities in Darlington County and around the nation and world. While we are working remotely, please know that we are available via email or phone to assist you in connecting with the resources you need to keep your business and your family afloat as we go through these difficult times. We may not know the right answer at that moment, but you can be assured that we will do our best to help you find the right person or program to get you heading in the right direction. We will continue to monitor emails and programs for updates and try to send you the most relevant information without*

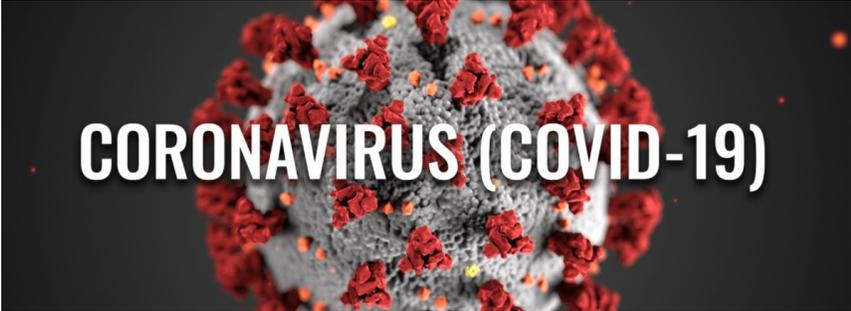
overloading your inbox, but don't hesitate to contact us at any point if you need more information.

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# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

## **DCEDP Resources for Businesses:**

[accelerateSC](#)

[SC Covid-19 Emergency Supply Collaborative](#)

[NESA Region Resources Hub](#)

[SC Chamber of Commerce Resources Hub](#)



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