

From: South Carolina Department of Commerce <marketing@sccommerce.com>
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Subject: Preparing Tomorrow's Workforce

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May 30, 2014

There are more people working today than ever before in South Carolina's history. The Palmetto State's unemployment rate is at a 12-year low at 5.3 percent - a full point below the national average. With a record number of jobs and investment being infused into our economy statewide, the economic future looks bright in South Carolina. This good news bodes well for the thousands of eager graduates now marching into the state's workforce.

In the last three years, Team South Carolina's winning economic strategy has been focused on developing a skilled workforce customized to the needs of industry. While our results prove we are moving in the right direction, for us to continue to create a favorable business climate for both companies and job seekers, we must also focus on preparing tomorrow's workforce.

During this session, the **South Carolina General Assembly voted** to transfer the state's **Regional Education Centers (RECs)** to the Department of Commerce. Our staff has already begun working with the REC coordinators, in each of the state's regions, to help our K-12 students find "pathways to success" through collaborations with South Carolina's business community. With the help of innovative initiatives like these, bolstered by the state's nationally renowned workforce development programs, South Carolina is ensuring that tomorrow's great leaders, innovators and educators will be grown here in South Carolina.

Just Announced

Southern region of South Carolina to receive 300 new jobs, \$38 million in investments. Seven companies to locate or expand in six-county region.

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Pacific Rim Aerospace opens Charleston County office. The company expects to create 100 jobs in coming years.

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Tetramer Technologies expands Anderson County facility. The \$1 million investment is expected to create additional 25 new jobs over the next five years.

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Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce

Spotlight: High-Tech Job Growth

South Carolina is quickly becoming a talent magnet for businesses and entrepreneurs in the technology field. From boutique software development firms to fortune 500 companies, these businesses are growing a cluster of high-tech and innovative jobs in the Palmetto State. Today, there are more than 75,000 people in South Carolina working in science, engineering or technology related career fields. Experts predict that by 2020, high-tech jobs could increase by more than 20 percent in the state. Additionally, a recent report from the **Bay Area Council Economic Institute** ranked South Carolina second in the nation for high-tech employment growth.

The Palmetto State's innovative training programs, small business resources and technology-friendly ecosystem have helped South Carolina secure its spot as a leader in the high-tech job sphere.

Photo caption: Neil Menkus, Hardware Operator- Google Data Center, Berkeley County. Photo courtesy of Google.

Upcoming Events

2014 SC Clean Energy Summit

Googlefest 2014

Full Calendar of Business Events

Newsmakers

Haley to announce 304 jobs in 5 rural counties

Ports authority OKs land sale to manufacturer

Study: Rock Hill lacks tech workers needed for Knowledge Park

GSP starts work on BMW export site

Tenn. logistics company launches Greenville operation

Boeing's footprint continues to grow in Lowcountry

Clemson "enlightens example" as nation development leader

Women in technology fields discuss career paths, industry challenges

Commerce Capture: MAKE.DIGITAL

Since pioneering the concept of 3D printing in 1989, **3D Systems** (3DS) has been empowering people all over the globe to "manufacture the future."

This month, the **Rock Hill-based company** announced that it was further advancing the bounds of innovation, by launching a new website to help make 3D printing accessible for K-12 educators. The **MAKE.DIGITAL** site will offer customization apps, video tutorials and a wide range of STEM curriculum resources. The 3DS initiative will provide students all over the globe with 21st century tools and 3D technology.

Photo Courtesy of 3D Systems

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