

From: Ten at the Top <dhybl@tenatthetop.org>  
To: Kevin L. BryantKevinBryant@scstatehouse.gov  
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## Ten at the Top Upstate News

December 3, 2018 - Volume 9, Issue 12

### Chandra Dillard, Rick Danner and Terence Roberts Receive Regional Awards at Celebrating Successes Brunch

During Ten at the Top's Celebrating Successes Brunch on Wednesday, November 14, South Carolina State Representative Chandra Dillard, City of Greer Mayor Rick Danner and City of Anderson Mayor Terence Roberts were recognized for their record of servant leadership and contributions to enhancing the Upstate region. Dillard received the Burdette Leadership Award while Danner and Roberts were recognized with the Welling Award for Regional Collaboration.

This marks the third year of the Burdette Leadership Award and is given in recognition of Carol Burdette, the first female chair of Ten at the Top. It honors women who have both served and led across the Upstate. Previous recipients of the Burdette Award are Minor Shaw and Dr. Becky Campbell.

The Welling Award for Regional Collaboration, named after Ten at the Top founding chairman Irv Welling, recognizes individuals who have demonstrated longstanding involvement in encouraging collaboration across jurisdictional and stakeholder boundaries. Previous recipients of the Welling Award include Erwin Maddrey, Phil Hughes, GSP International Airport, Dean Hybl, Minor Shaw, Carol Burdette and Bobby Hitt.

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### Town of Ninety-Six and Charles Townes Arts & Technology Experiment Receive Hughes Investments Elevate Upstate Community Vibrancy Grants

As part of the Celebrating Successes Brunch on November 14th, Ten at the Top announced the recipients for the 2018 Hughes Investments Elevate Upstate Community Vibrancy Grants. The two recipients, each receiving \$5,000, are the Ninety-Six Mill Village Association for their Movie Night at the Park project and Spontaneous Productions for the First Annual Charles Townes Arts & Technology Experiment.

The grants, which began in 2013, annually provide "seed funds" to support vibrancy initiatives in communities across the Upstate region. There were 26 applications for the 2018 grants and five finalists gave brief presentations before the selections were made during the Celebrating Successes Brunch presented by Piedmont Natural Gas on Wednesday, November 14, at the Greenville Marriott as part of the Our Upstate Vision Forum Series presented by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina.

"The goal of the Elevate Upstate program is to get communities thinking about what types of initiatives or

programs might help spark vibrancy within their area and then provide some seed money to get some of them started," said Hughes Investments President Phil Hughes. "In the six years we have done this program, I have been amazed by the great ideas and passion of communities across the region to grow their vibrancy and sense of place. It was a real challenge to narrow the field to five finalists and to select the recipients."

In addition to providing \$10,000 to the two winners, Hughes also pledged a \$3,000 matching grant to the Piedmont Physic Garden in Union County to start an Environmental Arts Festival.

In the six years of the Hughes Investments Elevate Upstate Grants program, Phil Hughes and Hughes Investments has provided a total of \$80,000 to help with 24 different vibrancy initiatives across the Upstate region.

[Check out the full recap from the Celebrating Successes Brunch](#)

[Watch Video from the Celebrating Successes Brunch](#)

[See pictures from the Celebrating Successes Brunch](#)

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## How Can Sectors Work Together to Advance Mobility in the Upstate? Join Us for a Focus Group on December 4th

As part of Phase 2 of the Connecting Our Future Mobility Initiative, we will be holding a series of stakeholder focus groups on December 4th to learn how you and your organization work with other entities in the region. As part of the session, we will explore the region's mobility needs and how government, private industry, and non-profits can more effectively partner to advance these priorities.

There are three open sessions during the day and we hope you will join us for the one that best fits your business or organization. Below are links to find more details and register for the sessions.

TATT ENGAGEMENT BRIEFING SCHEDULE -DECEMBER 4TH -  
124 Verdae Blvd., 5th Floor Conference Room, Greenville, SC

Institutions & Non-Profits Stakeholder Meeting  
(Colleges & Universities, K-12 School Districts, Hospital Systems and Non-profits)  
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM  
[Click Here to Register](#)

Business and Economic Development Stakeholder Meeting  
(Business, employers, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, workforce development organizations, freight companies and utility companies)  
12:30 AM – 2:00 PM  
[Click Here to Register](#)

Municipalities Stakeholder Meeting  
(City planners, city administrators, transportation managers)  
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM  
[Click Here to Register](#)

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## Kauffman Foundation Representative Says Entrepreneurs & Small Businesses Play Critical Role in Economic Success

When we think about the economy in the Upstate or across the country, we often focus most of our attention on

the larger companies such as BMW, Michelin, Bosch, Milliken and others with lots of employees and established brands and histories.

Yet, did you know that 89% of the businesses in the United States employ 20 or fewer employees?

According to Andy Stoll from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City, the places that will thrive economically in today's "Connected Age" are those that can best enable entrepreneurs and small businesses to grow and achieve success.

While that certainly includes creating and identifying the various resources needed by entrepreneurs, Stoll said that also means purposefully creating a culture where all potential entrepreneurs and small business owners are aware of and have access to what they need to be successful.

"Many communities have the ingredients that entrepreneurs need," Stoll said, "they just may not be organized in a way that is supportive."

Stoll, a senior program officer for the Kauffman Foundation who has started six entrepreneurial-focused organizations, made those comments during a recent two-day visit to the Upstate. During his trip, Stoll met with local entrepreneurs and toured some of the great incubators and entrepreneurial support locations in the region including NEXT in Greenville, BGEN in Gaffney and the Tri-Country Entrepreneurial Development Center in Walhalla.

He also spoke at a luncheon in Spartanburg hosted by the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Johnson Group, VentureSouth and VentureCarolina and conducted a workshop for about 30 entrepreneurs and entrepreneur support providers as part of Ten at the Top's Entrepreneur Support Providers Network.

"The Upstate is ahead of many other places in looking at ecosystem building," Stoll said. "That you already have people coming together to see how they can work collaboratively and enhance opportunities for entrepreneurs is vital."

[Read more about Stoll's visit to the Upstate](#)

### News & Programs

#### TATT Conducts 13th Upstate Bus Tour

Since 2015, Ten at the Top has coordinated bus tours to communities across the Upstate to provide a hands-on opportunity to learn about some of the unique places in the region.

The most recent tour was held on November 13th and included visits to four cities within Greenville County.

Included during the day was a driving and walking tour of the City of Greer, as well as walking tours of Simpsonville and Fountain Inn. The group also had the opportunity to

#### Become a 2019 TATT Funding Partner

In 2019 Ten at the Top will be celebrating a Decade of Connecting the Upstate.

We are grateful to the many funding partners and supporters who have played a critical role in supporting the development of the organization over the last decade.

In 2019 we plan on recognizing our long-term partners and supporters while also looking to grow engagement across the region.

We hope you will continue your TATT support or become a new partner in 2019.

tour the Fountain Inn Museum.

Concluding the day was an update from local developer Phil Hughes on the new Bridgeway Station Project in Mauldin.

TATT is planning to take a break from the bus tours in 2019, but will be asking for input on potentially relaunching the program in 2020.

Check out photos from the Greenville County Bus Tour

Please check out our 2019 Partner and Sponsorship Opportunities as well as the 2019 Commitment Form .

If you have questions about TATT partnership and sponsorship opportunities or would like to set up a personal meeting, please contact Allison Hall .

## Stay Connected with Upstate Initiatives & Resources

Check out the TATT YouTube Channel for archives from meetings, presentations and events hosted by Ten at the Top. The Channel also includes videos of the Elevate Upstate Grant recipients and other TATT initiatives.

[TATT YouTube Channel](#)

TATT volunteers have developed a number of interactive regional asset maps. Check out links to regional resources below.

[Senior Resources](#)

[Child Well-Being Services](#)

[Outdoor Activities & Recreation](#)

[Arts & Culture](#)

[Business Ecosystem](#)

[Education](#)

Trying to find out what is happening across the Upstate? Check out the Calendar of Everything from our partners at In the Know Upstate.

[In the Know Upstate](#)

## Ten at the Top

98 Regional Engagements in 2018  
4,693 Participants in 2018

802 Regional Engagements since 2010  
37,974 Participants since 2010

### On the Calendar

Be sure and put these TATT events on your calendar:

Connecting Our Future Focus Groups  
December 4th, various times  
124 Verdae Boulevard, Suite 503  
Greenville, SC 29607

Institutions & Non-Profits  
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
[Click Here to Register](#)

Business & Economic Development  
12:30-2:00 p.m.  
[Click Here to Register](#)

Local Governments  
3:30-5:00 p.m.  
[Click Here to Register](#)

### Become a TATT Supporter

As a non-profit organization, TATT relies on funding partners and event sponsors to help sustain our regional mission. During the year TATT hosts several exclusive events to provide board members & funding partners additional opportunities to network and build regional contacts. If you are not already a TATT supporter, please check out our 2019 Partner & Sponsor Packet to become engaged. Contact Dean Hybl or Allison Hall for questions or more information.

[Please Click Here to Make an Individual Contribution to Ten at the Top](#)

SAVE THE DATE  
2019 PIQUE: Young Leaders Elevating  
the Upstate  
March 25, 2019  
Greenville One Center  
Registration Coming in January

Check Out the New TATT Video

Special thanks to WSPA-TV for creating a new video highlighting current initiatives being coordinated by Ten at the Top. This video was first unveiled during the 2018 Upstate Regional Summit.

Check Out the TATT Web Site

Ten at the Top is a regional non-profit organization with the mission of fostering collaboration and partnerships across the Upstate around issues that impact economic vitality and quality of life.

Ten at the Top | 864-283-2315 | [info@tenatthetop.org](mailto:info@tenatthetop.org) | [www.tenatthetop.org](http://www.tenatthetop.org)

STAY CONNECTED

Ten at the Top | 124 Verdae Boulevard, Suite 202, Greenville, SC 29607

Unsubscribe [kevinbryant@scsenate.gov](mailto:kevinbryant@scsenate.gov)

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collaboration with

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