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Manufacturers Journal

DECEMBER 30, 2015

ICYMI: A MUST READ GREENVILLE NEWS EDITORIAL ON WHY IT'S TIME TO #FIXSCROAD

In case you missed it - The [Greenville News editorial](#) on December 16, 2015 details the immediate need to address infrastructure when the General Assembly comes back in January. Excerpt below link to full editorial.

“The state’s roads are important to the economic well-being of South Carolina and to the quality of life state residents enjoy. But if roads are not brought into better condition, employers will take notice, and drivers will be less safe. In fact, some business leaders have said they might find it more attractive to move out of state if South Carolina does not address its infrastructure needs.” [Read more.](#)

GREENVILLE NEWS
EDITORIAL

INFRASTRUCTURE

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EX-IM BANK APPROVAL GOOD NEWS FOR S.C.

One of the S.C. Chamber’s top priorities was signed into law by President Obama this month. The Ex-Im Bank was reauthorized as part of the Federal Highway Bill. In the last 5 years, the Ex-Im bank supported nearly \$3 billion in exports from the state of South Carolina for 67 companies, 35 of which are small businesses. That the bank is able to reopen is great news for South Carolina Business. Read more about what S.C. Chamber CEO, Ted Pitts has to say about the Ex-Im Bank [here.](#)

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EX-IM BANK

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SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2016 SOUTH CAROLINA MANUFACTURING CONFERENCE AND EXPO

APRIL 20-21, 2016 • TD CONVENTION CENTER, GREENVILLE

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, along with SC BIZ NEWS, Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP and GSA Business, want you to make plans to attend the “The Most Significant Manufacturing Event of the Year” in April.

Featured keynote speakers include Katarina Fjording, VP Manufacturing, Americas, Volvo Car Group and Marco Wirtz, President and CEO, Daimler Vans Manufacturing.

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SONOCO CEO JACK SANDERS TO SERVE AS S.C. CHAMBER COMMERCE CHAIR

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that Jack Sanders, president and CEO of Sonoco, South Carolina’s largest homegrown company will serve as the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce’s 2016 Commerce Chairman. Mr. Sanders will serve as the first ever State Chamber Chairman of Commerce, a role developed by the Chamber Board and appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Directors to help make South Carolina the best place in the world to do business by focusing on growing existing South Carolina companies. Mr. Sanders joined Sonoco in 1988 and became its eighth CEO in 2013.

Chairman of the Board John Uprichard, CEO of Find Great People, said, “We are pleased to announce that Jack has accepted the Board’s appointment to Commerce Chairman. As South Carolina continues to grow jobs and opportunity, the State Chamber must continue to also grow its role of supporting our business community. With Jack’s background in expanding Sonoco to South Carolina’s largest homegrown company, we know he will be

a great asset as the Chamber broadens its reach to help businesses across the state expand.”

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MEET JACK SANDERS

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IS YOUR COMPANY ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO WORK IN SOUTH CAROLINA?

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS APRIL 1, 2016

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the publishers of the [SCBIZ](#) and the [Best Companies Group](#) have teamed up again for the 11th consecutive year to produce the [Best Places to Work in South Carolina](#) program.

Nominations are open for the 2016 award. This initiative is dedicated to identifying and recognizing South Carolina’s most innovative and top-notch employers. Upon completion of the assessment process, all participating companies will receive an Employee Feedback Report, which details the results of their specific survey. Similar reports can cost thousands of dollars if initiated independently.

Companies selected as “Best Places to Work” will be recognized and honored during a reception and dinner scheduled for August 4, 2016 in Columbia. To be eligible for consideration, companies must meet the following criteria:

- Be a for-profit or not-for-profit business or government entity
- Be a publicly or privately held business
- Have a facility in the state of South Carolina
- Have a minimum of 15 employees working in the state of South Carolina
- Must be in business a minimum of 1 year

To view the 2016 program timeline, please [click here](#).

APPLY TODAY

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SOUTH CAROLINA RANKS NO. 25 IN FORBES

This article first appeared in the [Forbes.com](#) on November 10, 2015

By Kurt Badenhausen

South Carolina ranks No. 25 in Forbes' 10th annual [Best States for Business](#), down two spots from last year. Like its neighbor North Carolina, South Carolina has experienced massive net migration into the state over the past five years—resulting in the fifth highest rate in the U.S. The state has been a big proponent of using incentives to lure foreign investment and U.S. companies alike. The Palmetto State's economy also benefits from its status as a right-to-work state. South Carolina has the second lowest union membership as a percentage of its workforce in the country.

Here are the areas South Carolina ranks highest and lowest among the 40 criteria *Forbes* uses to gauge the best and worst states (click [here](#) for a detailed methodology of our Best States ranking).

South Carolina's Best Rankings

#1 Moody's bond rating: AAA

#2 Union workforce: 2.2%

#2 Incentives climate

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