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March 7, 2014

Since 2011, our state has been focused on recruiting quality companies to our borders, building up existing businesses, creating jobs and strengthening our workforce. This month, we're continuing to see proof that South Carolina is doing things the right way, and getting the right results.

**The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce** (SCDEW) this week released 2013 figures, proclaiming it "a banner year" for total employment in the state. More South Carolinians were employed by the end of the year than ever before in the state's history. The Palmetto State's jobless rate has dropped below the national average for the first time since 2001, and unemployment has declined by more than 10 percent in some counties. Rounding out the good news, McCormick County became the second county in South Carolina and the sixth in the United States to become a **Certified Work Ready Community**. These are huge results for our state and our citizens.

In economic development, it's easy to measure success by bottom lines, trends and the number of projects closed. But here in South Carolina, the full impact of our success can be measured by our growing workforce, which proves to the world that it is just right for business.

Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce

## Just Announced

**Core Molding Technologies Inc.** expands Gaffney facility. The \$6.4 million investment expects to bring more than 50 new jobs.  
**Read More**

**Meyer Tool Inc.** to expand Greenville operation. The \$5 million investment is expected to create 50 jobs.  
**Read More**

## Upcoming Events

SC Workforce  
Development  
Partnership  
Symposium

South Carolina Supply  
Chain Summit

First Conference on  
Local DC Electricity

### Full Calendar & Business Events

## Newsmakers

The American Dream  
State Ranking Report:  
South Carolina Ranks  
#4

New BMW sports  
coupe to be  
assembled in Greer

State commerce  
secretary praises  
efforts to get  
Japanese company to  
invest \$1B in  
Spartanburg County  
facility

South Carolina  
employment reached  
all-time high

SCRA Recognizes Love  
as Knowledge  
Economist

Specialty plastics  
maker celebrates  
expansion of its  
Cherokee County  
facility

New members tapped  
to serve on District  
Export Council

## Spotlight: Rural Summit 2014

This week, the South Carolina Department of Commerce gathered leaders from across the state for the **24<sup>th</sup> annual South Carolina Rural Summit**. The annual event provides an opportunity for rural community leaders, economic developers and state officials to share ideas, experiences and practical knowledge to improve rural South Carolina. This year's event was held at the Opera House in Sumter, S. C.

Secretary Hitt presented awards to individuals and organizations that are making a notable difference in rural communities in the state, including: the Palmetto Partnership Award presented to the [Chester Gateway Project](#), the Director's Award presented to [Continental Tire the Americas](#), Rural Development Service Award presented to [Tony Allen and Warren Darby](#) and the Excellence Award presented to [Jasmine Callaham](#).

*Spotlight Photo: Secretary Bobby Hitt (Center) poses with Commerce project managers Tony Allen (left) and Warren Darby (right). Allen and Darby recieved the Rural Development Service Award.*

Business, government  
leaders lobby state on  
behalf of York County

Verizon Wireless  
adding 98 full-time  
jobs in South Carolina

## Commerce Capture: Rural Summit Photography Contest Winner

**Jessica Oswald's photo, titled "Palmetto Field,"** was selected as the winner of the Rural Summit Photography Contest by conference attendees during the 24th Annual Rural Summit.

Oswald's entry was one of more than 90 entries for this year's contest. The entries were narrowed down to five finalist photos by the S.C. Department of Commerce staff and displayed at the Rural Summit. Oswald, of Gilbert County, took the winning photograph showing a symbolic South Carolina palmetto tree, standing alone in a tranquil field. The top three finalist photos can be viewed on the Department of Commerce website in the **photo gallery section**.

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