

From: South Carolina Department of Commerce <marketing@sccommerce.com>
To: Mayer, DougDougMayer@gov.sc.gov
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Subject: Commerce Communications: Bragging Rights for Team South Carolina

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November 18, 2016

Next week, many across this state will don either orange and purple or garnet and black to celebrate the renewal of college football's second-longest uninterrupted rivalry. While the annual Palmetto Bowl will have us rooting for teams on opposite sides of the field, the truth is, we're all on the same team -- Team South Carolina -- and, in economic development, our state has earned the ultimate bragging rights. From our status as the Southeast's leader in manufacturing employment growth to our six consecutive record years in export sales, there's a lot to be proud of.

Another area we're excelling in is entrepreneurship. In fact, [according to the Kauffman Foundation](#), the average South Carolina startup grew by 49 percent from 2008 to 2013. In an effort to build on this growth, and in conjunction with [Global Entrepreneur Week](#), several important events have taken place around the state this week. On Wednesday, EngenuitySC held its annual Ignite! Ideas Contest, [awarding RumbleLab](#) with \$5,000 in seed money to kick-start its business. On Thursday, the University of South Carolina's Entrepreneurial Challenge culminated with a Shark Tank-like event, providing finalists with the chance to pitch their concepts to a panel of seasoned entrepreneurs. And, this weekend, [Startup Weekend Hartsville](#) is taking place in Darlington County, giving student entrepreneurs a three-day, hands-on look at company formation.

So, while we are separated by team allegiances next Saturday, know that all of us truly are on the same team in economic development -- and we're winning. From entrepreneurship to manufacturing and everything in between, our competitive edge and desire for bragging rights will ensure economic prosperity across South Carolina for many years to come.

Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce

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Spotlight: SLS Subcontractor Outreach Event

Many communities across the Palmetto State are still recovering from the devastating floods of October 2015, and Team South Carolina continues to band together in the effort to help those impacted. From fundraising and infrastructure repair to ongoing efforts to revitalize and restore damaged homes, there is still work to be done as we seek to fully recover from such an unprecedented weather event.

On Wednesday, December 7, the S.C. Department of Commerce and the S.C. Disaster Recovery Office will be joining SLS Construction for a subcontractor outreach event associated with housing rehabilitation for homes damaged during the floods. Taking place at Central Carolina Technical College in Sumter, S.C. from 3 -5 p.m., this event will allow attendees to gain information about the projected schedule, learn about current and upcoming bid packages and receive instructions on subcontractor/vender pre-qualification forms.

This outreach event serves, not just as a way for construction firms and contractors to network, but to come together and lend a helping hand to communities that need it most. [Click here](#) for registration and event information.

Photo courtesy of the SLS Construction.

This week, Team South Carolina traveled to India on an international trade mission. Accounting for approximately \$3 state's export sales total each year, India is an important market for South Carolina companies. The trip included visit Bangalore, Delhi and Mumbai, providing participants with the opportunity for one-on-one meetings with prospective agents and partners. For information on future international trade missions, [click here](#).

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