

From: S.C. Department of Commerce <marketing@sccommerce.com>
To: Mayer, DougDougMayer@gov.sc.gov
Date: 11/17/2016 2:00:27 PM
Subject: More than 50 complete 2016 South Carolina Economic Development Institute

- NEWS RELEASE -

For Immediate Release
November 17, 2016

More than 50 complete 2016 South Carolina Economic Development Institute

Program concludes its 26th year with session and graduation ceremony in McCormick County

COLUMBIA, S.C. - More than 50 local leaders and economic development professionals from across South Carolina have completed the 2016 South Carolina Economic Development Institute (Institute). Institute attendees received Certificates of Completion during the final day of the 2016 Institute held on Friday, November 11 at Hickory Knob State Park in McCormick County.

The program consisted of quarterly, two-day sessions for which participants traveled to different locations throughout the state. In addition to the final session, which took place in McCormick, sessions were also held in North Charleston, Hartsville and Spartanburg. During the sessions, attendees gained insight into issues relating to: leadership and communication skills, community development, business and industrial development and product development.

The Institute is a partnership between the South Carolina Department of Commerce and the South Carolina Economic Developers' Association (SCEDA). The program emphasizes elements necessary to be competitive in today's global economy and educates supporters of economic development on emerging trends.

"In South Carolina, we recognize that economic development is a team sport," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt. "So, we are proud to partner with our allies at SCEDA to ensure that the state's economic development team is well-informed and equipped to bring economic growth to each and every one of our communities."

The Institute is open to participants from a wide variety of organizations and entities, including: city, town and county councils; local economic development practitioners; county economic development boards; county school boards; regional economic development boards; utility companies; and local and state government employees.

"For 26 years, the Institute has been a tremendous tool for the economic development community in South Carolina," said SCEDA President Nelson Lindsay. "Each year, participants are able to strengthen relationships with their counterparts and allies across the state, while learning all the latest industrial trends, as well as best practices related to community and economic development."

On February 12, the program will begin its 27th year as the 2017 Institute kicks-off with a leadership and communications session in North Charleston. Subsequent sessions will take place in Greenwood, Florence and Greer. Although there is no additional space available for

participation in next year's program, more information on the South Carolina Economic Development Institute can be obtained by visiting www.sceda.org or contacting SCEDA at 803-929-0305.

2016 South Carolina Economic Development Institute graduates,
listed alphabetically by last name:
(Click on the hyperlink for a photo of the participant)

Name	Organization
Joseph Affsprung	Dorchester County Economic Development
Bill All	Union County Development Board
Kara Bailey	Rogers Townsend & Thomas, PC
Lee Bailey	City of Woodruff
Daniel Beaty	S.C. Department of Commerce
Jay Blankenship	S.C. Department of Commerce
Alan Bolduc	Avison Young
Tommy Boyleston	Barnwell County Economic Development Commission
Matthew Brady	Greer CPW
Bill Brockington	City of Westminster
Paul Cain	Oconee County
Lindsey Culley	Dorchester County Economic Development
Kip Dillihay	Independent participant
Adrienne Fairwell	S.C. Department of Commerce
Ashley Feaster	Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Patricia Ferguson	S.C. Department of Commerce
Christopher Finn	South Carolina I-77 Alliance
Marcella Forrest	S.C. Department of Commerce
Chantal Fryer	S.C. Department of Commerce
Sidney Fulton	Orangeburg County Development Commission
Deborah Garrick	City of Rock Hill
Joi Gilliam	S.C. Department of Commerce
Brenda Golden	S.C. Department of Commerce
Tiffany Jaspers	Lexington County Economic Development
Jimmy Johnson	SC STATE Small Business Development Center
Will Johnson	Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd P.A.
Ryan Melvin	S.C. Department of Commerce
Ken Moon	Cherokee County Development Board
Ana Moss	Cherokee County Development Board
Kyle Newton	Anderson County Schools
Monica Perry	Darlington County Progress

Cynthia Pitts	S.C. Department of Commerce
David Porter	Abbeville County
Justin Powell	Horry County
Cherie Pressley	S.C. Department of Commerce
Brandinika Ritter	Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership
Lauren Scoggins	Upstate SC Alliance
Toby Singletary	Barnwell County Economic Development Commission
Hannah Smith Spruill	City of Rock Hill
Peter Stewart	Stewart Architecture
Brantley Strickland	Southern Carolina Alliance
Shane Stuart	Chester County
Ashely Teasdel	S.C. Department of Commerce
Candice Thompson	Georgetown County Economic Development
David Tribble	Independent participant
Caroline Warner	Oconee Economic Alliance
Erika Williams	Sumter Economic Development / The Link
Katie Wyllie Wilcox	PeeDee Electric Cooperative
Arlene Young	City of Anderson

For photos of all participants who received a certificate of completion on November 11, please visit the [S.C. Department of Commerce's flickr page](#).

About S.C. Department of Commerce

As South Carolina's leading economic development agency, the Department of Commerce works to recruit new businesses and help existing business grow. Commerce has recruited world-class companies to South Carolina such as BMW, Boeing, Continental, Giti Tire, LPL Financial Holdings, Mercedes-Benz Vans, Toray and Volvo Cars and also supports startups, small and existing business, innovation and rural development initiatives. Commerce partners with the [S.C. Technical College System](#) via [readySC](#) to support workforce training and recruiting, and with the [S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce](#), which provides worker training and employment opportunities within the state. In three of the last five years, IBM-Plant Location International reports ranked South Carolina first in the nation for attracting jobs through foreign investment. The state won the Gold Shovel Award and the Project of Year Award from Area Development magazine in 2012, 2014 and 2015. For more information, visit www.SCcommerce.com.

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