

From: South Carolina Department of Commerce <marketing@sccommerce.com>
To: Mayer, DougDougMayer@gov.sc.gov
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Subject: Commerce Communications: Investing in the Leaders of Tomorrow

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May 8, 2015

Today and in the days ahead, many of our state's young adults will don the traditional cap and gown to receive their all-important diplomas. Signaling the transition of many South Carolinians into the workforce, the graduation ceremonies conducted by our in-state schools underscore the important role young professionals play in advancing our economy.

Though many different ingredients are needed to foster an exceptional workforce, the retention and attraction of young professionals to our state is one of the most crucial. According to the Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America, 85,000 STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) related jobs will need to be filled in South Carolina by 2018. Moreover, the continued surge of manufacturing jobs in our state indicates an ever-increasing need for skilled labor. Only by keeping young talent in-state can we meet the workforce needs of our growing economy.

As Team South Carolina works hard to bring jobs to the Palmetto State, it's imperative that we continue investing in those who will one day succeed us in propelling our state to even greater heights.

Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce

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Spotlight: South Carolina Technical College System

Some of Commerce's greatest allies in workforce development are those that comprise the [South Carolina Technical College System](#). Through 16 colleges across South Carolina, readySC and Apprenticeship Carolina, the primary goal of the South Carolina Technical College System is to support economic and workforce development in our state.

Reaching more than 250,000 South Carolinians each year, the SC Technical College System is the state's largest higher education system because of its accessibility and affordability. In fact, 58 percent of all South Carolinians enrolled as undergraduates in public higher education in the state attend a technical college.

Another key part the Technical College System plays is how it responds to the needs of business. With the automotive and aerospace industries being two of the state's most prominent, the role that our technical colleges play in preparing skilled workers for these jobs is critical to ensuring our place in the global market.

Photo courtesy of: the [South Carolina Technical College System](#).

Commerce Capture: Rise of the Rest Tour Stops in Charleston

On Wednesday, AOL co-founder Steve Case made a stop in Charleston as part of Revolution Ventures' [Rise of the Rest](#) one-week, five-city tour is focused on celebrating progress, investing in local startups and recognizing people and cor

working together to advance both their respective communities and the nation. At each stop, a pitch competition is held and the winner receives a \$100,000 investment from Governor Henry McMaster. [Bidr](#), a mobile technology firm that specializes in silent auction applications, won Case's \$100,000 investment during Wednesday's event. Attended by both Governor Nikki Haley and Commerce Secretary Bobby Hitt, the Rise of the Rest tour stop also featured a fireside chat with the Governor and Case regarding entrepreneurship.

Photos courtesy of: [Rise of the Rest](#).

South Carolina Department of Commerce
(803) 737-0400 | marketing@sccommerce.com
1201 Main Street, Suite 1600 | Columbia, SC 29201
www.SCcommerce.com

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