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**Subject:** Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders

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September 19, 2014

It's a new day in South Carolina. Once a state primarily known for its strong textile and agriculture industries, the Palmetto State has entered a new era in economic development. Thanks to our thriving advanced manufacturing industry, planes, tires and automobiles have given our state a reputation as the "Beast of Southeast." And we're increasingly becoming known as a hot spot for the high-tech sector in today's knowledge economy. With the help of proactive leadership, we've invested in our state, developed our workforce and entered into a new phase in our state's history, which will continue to build momentum for years to come.

This week, I was honored to attend a summit highlighting tomorrow's leaders - the **LeadSC Young Professionals Summit**. In one room were hundreds of young and eager South Carolinians ready to take up the mantle of leadership in South Carolina. While there, I was reminded that these young people were the state's future CEOs, business owners, community leaders and elected officials. The next 25 years in South Carolina belongs to them.

Businessman and industry leader Harvey Firestone once said, "The growth and development of people is the highest calling of leadership." South Carolina is living this statement right now. To maintain our lead today, we must continue to invest in our leaders of tomorrow.

Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce

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## Spotlight: Lender MatchMaker Program

The South Carolina Department of Commerce's **SCBizNetwork** is a web hub of information and resources to help small business owners and entrepreneurs grow or establish their companies. One of the successful programs promoted by the SCBizNetwork is the statewide Lender MatchMaker workshops. The day-long workshops assist small business owners with strategies on financing their businesses, while also helping them meet potential lenders.

Entrepreneurs and small business owners will have a chance to attend the upcoming **2014 Lender MatchMaker** event on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Medallion Conference Center in Columbia, South Carolina. For more information on the Lender MatchMaker workshops or any of the SCBizNetwork's programs, please visit [www.sccommerce.com](http://www.sccommerce.com).

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Photo caption: A **Boyd Cycling** employee hand-builds the company's custom bicycle wheel. In 2013, Boyd Cycling obtained a \$100,000 business development loan through ADC and Greer Bank after teaming up with the South Carolina Department of Commerce. Photo courtesy of Boyd Cycling

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Commerce Capture: Trident Technical College

**Trident Technical College** is a public, two-year, multi-campus community college. The school serves approximately 17,000 traditional and non-traditional curriculum students in programs such as arts and sciences, agriculture, business, computer techn

technology, health sciences, industrial technology and public service. Trident Tech also offers four airplane-related diploma certificate tracks to assist with training Boeing employees in aviation and aerospace. In 2013, the college announced a \$79 million aeronautical training center at its North Charleston campus. The 215,000-square-foot space would will help for the aeronautical cluster in the region and state, including Boeing South Carolina and its suppliers and vendors.

*Photo Caption: Boeing employees train at Trident Technical College in North Charleston.*

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