



South Carolina Incubators, Business Resource Centers, Accelerators and Technology Councils

Updated survey research by New Carolina and the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

Amy Love
Deputy Executive Director
New Carolina
803-760-1400
alove@newcarolina.org

Pat Burton
Business Services
SC Department of Commerce
803-737-0222
pburton@scommerce.com

Active

Benedict College Incubator

The Benedict College Small Business Incubator brings in startup businesses for two years as clients and tenants within the Business Development Center. The expectation is that the businesses selected to be participants in the incubation program are entrepreneurs interested in providing innovative new products, services or approaches to business within the African-American community.

They currently have seven tenets and have five individual offices and nine cubicle spaces for rent. These offices can be used as a bridge for home based businesses that are not ready to open separate offices, but need rooms, workshops, and other services. Rent is a flat rate and includes internet and phone connection as well as access to various amenities such as a smart classroom that can hold video conferences, a traditional conference room that can hold up to 50 people, and regular classrooms for training.

David Palmer
Director
Business Development Center
1600 Harden Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: 803-253-5000 ext. 4892
Fax: 803-253-5555
E-mail: palmerd@benedict.edu
Web: www.benedict.edu
Area served: Midlands, Greater Columbia

Charleston Chamber, Business Development Division

The Business Development Division provides professional assistance to start, sustain and grow businesses by identifying their needs, connecting them with resources, and providing programs and services. Business Development works to create a thriving business climate by championing regional economic development efforts; supporting business expansion and retention; fostering international trade and addressing workforce development, minority business development needs, and business continuity planning. In addition Business Development seeks to engage, cultivate and empower young professionals by facilitating access to local industries and government, constructive networking, and professional development.

Lindsey Pakkala

Workforce Development Director

Business Development and Innovation Division

2750 Speissegger Drive, Suite 100

North Charleston, SC 29405

Phone: 843-805-3102

E-mail: lpakkala@charlestonchamber.org

Web: <http://charlestonchamber.net/aboutus/businessdevelopment>

Emily Brown

Business Development Manager

Business Development and Innovation Division

2750 Speissegger Drive, Suite 100

North Charleston, SC 29405

Phone: 843-805-3042

E-mail: ebrown@charlestonchamber.org

Web: <http://charlestonchamber.net/aboutus/businessdevelopment>

Pennie Bingham

Business Development/Innovation Senior Vice President

P.O. Box 975, Charleston, SC 29402

Phone: 843.805.3073

Fax: 843.723.4853

E-mail: pbingham@charlestonchamber.org

Web : <http://charlestonchamber.net>

Area served- Charleston Metro

Charleston Digital Corridor

The Charleston Digital Corridor is a full economic development organization and has been in operation for over five years. They receive public support from the City of Charleston, but they also have the capability to raise funds through their foundation. The organization targets technology or knowledge-based firms and has several different initiatives that include funding for early stage companies, providing temporary full-service offices for companies in transition, and networking and roundtable opportunities for their members. They also have added a "Touchdown Space" for start-up companies. It can accommodate two companies at any given time, and includes access to high-speed internet access and VOIP telephone.

Ernest Andrade

Executive Director

Charleston Digital Corridor

392-A Meeting Street

Charleston, SC 29403

Phone: 843-724-3773

E-mail: ernest@charlestdigitalcorridor.com

Web: www.charlestdigitalcorridor.com

Area served: City of Charleston

Clemson Renaissance Center in Greenville

The Clemson Renaissance Center is a joint venture of Clemson's College of Business and Behavior Science, the Spiro Institute for Entrepreneurship, the Center for International Trade, and Greenville's Small Business Development Center. The business community has donated space in the Liberty Building on Main Street in Greenville to house the center. They will offer some incubation space and plan to hire a high-level administrative coordinator to be in charge of the center. Bruce Yandle, the dean emeritus, is spearheading the fundraising efforts has a goal of raising \$1 million that will operate the center for several years until additional funding can be obtained. The grand opening took place on Thursday April 5, 2007.

They will house the university's program for entrepreneurial, experience-based graduate education and will serve as a portal between the school's College of Business and Behavioral Science and the Greenville business community. The center will enable graduate students and faculty to work directly with area firms, entrepreneurs and leaders in innovative ways that will both enrich and accelerate the learning experience. Initially, the Clemson Renaissance Center will house offices for the Spiro Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership, the Center for International Trade, and the Small Business Development Center. It will link experience-based MBA and other business graduate education programs with area entrepreneurs to create a hub of intellectual activities. The

center will offer students and the Greenville community a variety of programs and events, including executive education programs, new business development services, student projects for area companies, seminars, forums, a lecture series, and a celebration of the history of Southern entrepreneurs through a published journal.

Pris Foster

Administrative Assistant

135 South Main Street, Suite 600

Greenville, SC 29601

Phone: 864-370-3038

Fax: 864-370-1522

E-mail: priscif@clermson.edu

Web: www.clemson.edu/centers-institutes/renaissance

Area served: Upstate

Clemson University Research Foundation (CURF)

CURF is a 501(c)(3) organization that supports the research and economic development mission of Clemson University. CURF owns and operates two phase-I incubation facilities, the Center for Applied Technology and the Griffith Building for Innovation, Pendleton SC. These facilities, located five miles from Clemson University offer over 30,000 sq. feet of wet laboratory and office space to start-up and soft landing clients in the fields of advanced materials, biomedical materials, information technology, and nanotechnology. In addition, CURF recently acquired a 51,000 sq. ft. facility located in the Advanced Materials Research Center and Innovation Campus to be used as a phase-II pilot scale accelerator. The addition of the business accelerator provides continued support for maturing companies to increase the probability of graduation. In collaboration with University and community partners such as the Spiro Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership and NEXT Upstate, CURF offers a unique environment for technology driven start-ups to move ideas out of University laboratories and into the commercial marketplace.

Vincie Albritton

Associate Director

Intellectual Property Management and Technology Commercialization

Clemson University Research Foundation

Clemson Research Park

91 Technology Drive

Anderson, South Carolina 29625

Phone: 864-656-5708

Fax: 864-656-0474

E-mail: valbrit@clermson.edu

Web: www.clemson.edu/curf/flash.htm

Area served: Statewide

Colleton Improvement Collaborative

Haidee Stith with the SC Women's Business Center is supporting their efforts. The organization has a memorandum of understanding in place with Haidee's group to provide services. They have classes going on and will be called a community enterprise center. They are currently being run by volunteers who are developing the program and strategy. They have received some grant funding and are in the process of writing some other grants and are applying for an R-BEG and other competitive grants. Mary Dickerson is advising them as they proceed.

Gail Farrior
Program Director
Colleton Improvement Collaborative
350 E. Washington St., Unit B
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: 843-782-9004
E-mail: colletonimprovement@yahoo.com
Area served: Colleton County

Darlington Micro-enterprise Center (part of SC Business Initiative)

The organization recently received a three-year Kellogg grant that will enable them to hire a coordinator to supervise the activities of the center. They have a steering committee made up of local officials, the chamber director, and Jennifer Boyles, the Clemson extension contact in the area. This committee is in the process of further defining the focus of the center. This will be a Community Enterprise Center more than an incubator. One of their staff went with Haidee Stith to a conference on rural microenterprise networking being held in May in Portland, Maine.

Karen Carroll
Micro-Enterprise Manager
410 Pearl Street
Darlington, SC 29532
Phone: 843-398-4000 x104
E-mail: Carroll@scbusinessinitiative.org

County served- Darlington

Erskine College Business Resource Center

This group operates on funding from USDA, DOC, and Abbeville County. The organizational funding supports one FTE and \$20,000 per year to fund the business resource center. Their goal is to save existing small businesses and jobs and also create new jobs. The focus is to be an enabling and supporting resource for small businesses in Abbeville County and the surrounding area. They accomplish this primarily through seminars, workshops, faculty consulting, and student projects. They also facilitate two incubation spaces equipped with the latest technologies to enable business start ups to maximize their efforts.

Anthony Santella
Director
Erskine College Business Resource Center
2 Washington Street
P.O. Box 338
Due West, SC 29639
Phone: 864-379-8848
E-mail: santella@erskine.edu

Area served- Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens

Francis Marion Center for Entrepreneurship

The Center offers graduate and undergraduate courses taught by the best faculty in the School of Business and by outside professionals working in a wide range of entrepreneurial areas. Through its entrepreneurship curriculum, internships, mentoring, incubation and creation of new ventures, the Center contributes to South Carolina's economy by providing an environment and resources that enable people to create new businesses or improve existing ones.

Susan Peters
Director
Center for Entrepreneurship
PO Box 100547
Florence, SC 29502
Phone: 843-661-1102
Fax: 843-661-1432
E-mail: speters@fmarion.edu
Web: www.fmarion.edu/academics/centerforentrepreneurship

Area served- Pee Dee, Florence

Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce

The Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce provides opportunities for businesses in a number of areas. The chamber provides business before and after hours events, expansion of networking opportunities, legislative assistance, information and resources. They also have six small offices that they rent out to startup businesses. Becoming a member of the chamber also opens opportunities for tax deductions.

Susan Bromfield
President
Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 5233
Lake Wylie SC 29710
Phone: 803-831-2827
Fax: 803-831-2460
E-mail: info@lakewyliesc.com
Web: www.lakewyliesc.com

Area served- Lake Wylie

LOUD Community Development Corporation

LOUD collaborates with public and private partners and employers to provide employment-based training and education to prepare economically disadvantaged adults to successfully compete in a modern day workforce. The program works on a variety of skills including team building, community leadership, and personal leadership as well as a group project that provides hands-on leadership development.

Garon Jackson
Program Director
LOUD Community Development Corporation
PO Box 635
Bowman, SC 29018
Phone: 803-829-1805
E-mail: ron29115@yahoo.com
Web: www.loudsc.org

Area served- Orangeburg and Dorchester

Midlands Technical College Enterprise Campus (Business Accelerator)

The MTC Enterprise Campus Business Accelerator targets businesses that are exiting incubators, but needing the “next level” of space. The funding is provided by internal and private sources. Two full time employees help operate the organization. The Enterprise Campus has 150 acres of space where companies that move beyond the Business Accelerator program can move to permanently. The Enterprise Campus also works with the USC Innovista research and development program.

Martin Moore
Office Specialist
Midlands Technical College Enterprise Campus
P.O. Box 2408,
Columbia, South Carolina 29202
Phone: 803-744-6842
Fax: 803-744-4459
E-mail: martin.moore@cbresc.com
Web: www.mtcenterprisecampus.com

Area served- Midlands, Greater Columbia

NEXT Innovation Center Designed for Entrepreneurs

The Center was created by the Greenville Chamber, the City of Greenville, the Hughes Development Corporation and NEXT. The organization does not consider itself to be an incubator but an entrepreneur resource collaborative. They serve as one point of contact the entrepreneur can call to obtain assistance with real estate, business assessments, etc. NEXT is designed to accommodate growth, offer below-market rent, provide diverse suite types and sizes, and offer ready access to technology investors, advisors and professional services providers.

Brenda Laakso
Director
NEXT Innovation Center
24 Cleveland Street
Greenville, SC 29601
Phone: 864-239-3711
E-mail: blaakso@greenvillechamber.org

Area served- Upstate

SC Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Alliance

The organization is collaborating with the Savannah River National Lab and the SC Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Alliance to provide space where industrial and academic partners can work together. ARC: Hydrogen has more than 17,300 square feet of available lab space ready to be customized for specific research needs. The labs facilitate technology transfer and joint research. The facilities have features such as temperature and humidity control, ventilation and exhaust systems, research gases, high capacity electrical services, and flexibility and adaptability for future growth.

Chris Daetwyler
Programs Coordinator
South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance
1200 Senate Street, suite 406
Wade Hampton Building
South Carolina Capital Complex
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Phone: 803-978-7533
Fax: 803-737-0101
E-mail: daetwyler@schydrogen.org

South Carolina Biotechnology Center (a division of ATI, an SCRA affiliate)

ATI builds international collaborations to develop and implement world-class solutions for manufacturing, biotechnology, aerospace, automotive, maritime, metals, and healthcare industries. ATI's collaborative approach attracts top talent from premier companies, universities, and government agencies, to define technology roadmaps and research portfolios matched to business demands that provide the requisite resources to solve shared challenges. At the SC Biotechnology Center, a division of ATI that is located in Greenwood, South Carolina, our 22,000 SF facility offers wet laboratories, meeting space, and a library that support the development of biotechnology.

Ashley Hannah, Manager of Communications/Marketing
SC Biotechnology Center
A Division of ATI (an SCRA affiliate)
"Advancing Technology through Collaboration"

117 Gregor Mendel Circle
Greenwood, South Carolina 29646 USA
Greenwood Phone: 1+ 864.953.3982
Charleston Phone: 1+ 843.760.3567
Email: ashley.hannah@aticorp.org
Web: www.aticorp.org

South Carolina Coastal Community Development Corporation (SCCCDC)

The SCCDC provides a number of services including a business incubator that hosts a flexible environment where new and existing businesses benefit from affordable office space, shared equipment and professional administrative services. In addition to the incubator, there is a commercial kitchen, retail outlet, career and college resource center, and community supported agriculture that stimulates small business growth and development in surrounding areas. The SCCDC assists in getting businesses started and keeping them going. There are several businesses using the facility now including a restaurant and barbershop. They are also doing some offsite incubation as well.

Elizabeth Santagati
Executive Director
South Carolina Coastal Community Development
P.O. Box 206
22 Polowana Road Extension
St. Helena Island
South Carolina 29920, USA
Phone: 843-838-3295
Fax: 843-838-2954
E-mail: polowana@earthlink.net
Web: www.sccoastalcdc.org

Area served- Beaufort, Low country

Southeast Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT)

SiMT has several programs including a 3D Virtual Reality Center, Workforce Development Center, Rapid Prototyping Center, Advanced Manufacturing Center, and a Leadership Institute to aid their clients. The mission of SiMT is to provide customers with strategic training and manufacturing technology solutions that maximize workforce productivity in advanced manufacturing environments. They obtained federal funding for their initial phases.

Jack Roach
Director
Southeast Institute of Manufacturing and Technology
1951 Pisgah Road,
P.O. Box 100549,
Florence SC, 29502-0549
Phone: 843-413-2705
E-mail: Jack.Roach@simt.com
Web: www.simt.com
Area served- Florence and Darlington

Spartanburg Community College Business Accelerator

The center has a facility with 363,000 square feet of manufacturing space. They provide space and services to help companies get started, grow a customer base and find a permanent location. The accelerator also provides space for employee recruitment with services for applications, screenings, and pre-employment training. Funding is provided by the county and businesses only have to pay for utilities. They have 9000 square feet designated for business incubators and currently host two companies. They have a small business soft landing program and provide office space, free internet, phone, and many other services such as language needs (if the company is foreign), networking, assistance with government regulations, and so on.

Mike Forrester

Director of Economic Development

Spartanburg Community College Business Accelerator

P.O. Box 4386

Spartanburg, SC 29305

Phone: 864-592-6204

E-mail: forresterm@sccsc.edu

Area served- Spartanburg and Union

USC Columbia Technology Incubator (USCCTI)

The Columbia Technology Incubator's goal is to promote, stimulate, and support economic development in the Columbia Region, and the South Carolina Midlands, focusing on emerging technology-driven companies, corporate spin-offs, faculty-owned companies, and non-South Carolina and international firms. They provide a broad scope of services including cost-effective space and support, prototype manufacturing facilities, product realization and development services and business consultation.

They receive funding from the City of Columbia, Midlands Technical College, Richland County, Bellsouth, and some state funds not associated with USC. There are two FTEs with an operating budget of \$250,000. The program has helped create 563 jobs, 144 of which are minority jobs; the average salary produced is \$48,750 per job. The incubator has grown from 3000 square feet in 1998 to 40,000 square feet in 2006. They offer services to a wide range of companies including IT, Fuel Cells, Biotech, Retail businesses, and many more.

Joel Stevenson
Executive Director
USC Columbia Technology Incubator
1225 Laurel St
Columbia SC 29201
Phone: 803-545-4379
Fax: 803-545-4881
E-mail: jstevenson@sc.edu
Web: <http://incubator.research.sc.edu/>

Area served- Midlands, Greater Columbia

USC Salkehatchie Leadership Institute (USCSLI), Center for Business Development

The Salkehatchie Leadership Institute targets Allendale, Barnwell, Bamberg, Colleton and Hampton counties and targets individuals interested in starting or expanding a business. Pat Ciez acts as director at the Center for Business Development at the USCSLI. Funding primarily comes from the USDA. The institute has hired three individuals at the Salkehatchie Art Center. The current status of this operation is a 501(c)(3) and future plans include tapping into the tourism movement and a continuation of business planning and counseling assistance.

Pat Ciez
Director
USC Salkehatchie Leadership Institute
P.O. Box 617
Allendale, SC 29810
Phone: 803-584-3446 ext. 154
Fax: 803-584-5180
E-mail: CIEZ@gwm.sc.edu
Web: www.sc.edu/economic_impact/usc_salkehatchie.html

Area served- Allendale, Barnwell, Bamberg, Colleton and Hampton Counties

York Tech - Entrepreneur Network

The EN was organized by York Technical College in 2007 to assist, inform and encourage local small business owners, entrepreneurs, and potential entrepreneurs to network, share experiences with others, and engage in valuable educational opportunities.

We conduct quarterly educational and networking sessions. The website lists the types of activities that we have held in the past. Our next session is scheduled for February 16, 2009 at the Baxter Hood Center. We serve York, Chester, and Lancaster counties.

More than 500 businesses have participated in our events since we began in November 2007.

Edie Dillé
Chair
Associate Dean for Business and Information Technology
York Technical College
452 South Anderson Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730
Phone: 803-981-7314
E-mail: edille@yorktech.edu
Web: www.yorktech.com/en

Counties served- York, Chester, and Lancaster

Technology Councils

EngenuitySc

Created in 2003, EngenuitySC is an active public/private partnership focused on the knowledge-based economy in the Columbia, South Carolina region. It is comprised of business and industry leaders, along with representatives from local government and academia. Its goal is to encourage entrepreneurship to commercialize ideas, technology, research, and public policy in an effort to help knowledge-based companies and create access to start-up investment capital.

Neil McLean
Executive Director
EngenuitySc
P.O. Box. 50768
Columbia, SC 29250
Phone: 803-783-1507

E-mail: nmclean@engenuitysc.com
Web: www.engenuitysc.com

Grand Strand Technology Council

Activities are focused on topics of specific interest to computer information and technology trained professionals, and to technology dependent businesses. Initial emphases are on personal networking among the individuals, but will also involve information technology initiatives at Coastal Carolina University, federal government contracting, Microsoft security initiatives, technical training at Horry-Georgetown Technical College, visiting business leaders from significant companies where subcontracting might be available, biotechnology and information technology, and the next levels of Internet.

John Sanders
Chairman
Grand Strand Technology Council
950 Meyers Avenue
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: 843-491-6060
E-mail: info@gstechcouncil.org
Web: www.gstechcouncil.org

Area served- Horry, Georgetown

GSA Technology Council

The GSA Technology Council is a board driven, not-for-profit technology networking organization supporting the continued growth of Upstate South Carolina's technology economy. The GSATC provides networking, education, business development, and community service opportunities to technology professionals and entrepreneurs through it's technology newsletter, monthly meetings, annual job fair, and FastTrac training. Founded in 2002, the council has grown to over 11,000 subscribers.

Phil Yanov
Executive Director
GSA Technology Council
209 North Main Street Ste. 201
Greenville, SC 29601
Phone: 800-688-2094
E-mail: news@gsatc.org
Web: www.gsatc.org

Area served- Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson

ThinkTec

ThinkTEC facilitates the growth of knowledge businesses in the Charleston region by leading initiatives, providing programs and connecting needs with resources to create a thriving business environment for entrepreneurs and established businesses in this industry. These efforts include industry-specific conferences, public policy and legislative initiatives, program development, and educational events.

Pennie Bingham
Business Development
ThinkTec
P.O. Box 975
Charleston, SC 29402-0975
Phone: 843-577-2510
Fax: 843-723-4853
E-mail: PBingham@charlestonchamber.org
Web: www.thinktec.org

Area served- Tri-county, Charleston