



Darlington County
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Update

IN THE NEWS



Economic Development picking up in the Pee Dee **News and Press Online, by Melissa Rollins, October 25, 2017**

"During the annual meeting of Darlington County Progress, North Eastern Strategic Alliance (NESAN) Executive Director Jeff McKay talked about the work that has been done in the last year to continue the upward trajectory of economic progress in the Pee Dee Region.

"Our number one goal and our mission statement are pretty clear: we want to do everything we can to create job opportunities and investment opportunities for the counties that we serve," McKay said. "NESAN is truly a public-private partnership. We are funded by the counties that we serve, we go out and raise private funds and then we have access to a few state dollars."

McKay said that growth has been unequal across the state but NESAN and the Darlington County Economic Partnership have been working to bring balance."

[Read more here](#)

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PROGRESS MEMBERS

Next Board meeting:
December 1, 2017 at noon at the
SiMT Executive Board Room

Share your news

Do you or your company have any Darlington County news to share? If so, email us [here](#) and we'll include it in our next newsletter and on our website.

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Contact Us

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Apprenticeship offers DCSD students career training before graduation

News and Press Online, by Melissa Rollins, October 31, 2017

"Often times the chance to get hands-on experience in a career field takes place during the later half of a student's college career through an internship. Through a partnership with Apprenticeship Carolina and several local companies, students in the Darlington County School District are getting that experience before they even earn their high school diploma.

Robbie Smith, Director of the Darlington County Institute of Technology, said that several of his students have completed an apprenticeship and received glowing reviews from the company; one is even working full-time with the company he apprenticed for after graduating last year.

"We all want what's best for our kids and a lot of times what we think is best might not be," Smith said. "Sometimes parents think that kids have to get a college degree or they won't make any money. There is nothing wrong with going to college but at the same time imagine being nineteen, six months to a year out of high school, and making \$20 an hour with no debt. I was paying college debt for 10 years. That is not for everybody. If you've got the skill or the ability to do something you enjoy doing why go into a hundred thousand dollars worth of debt for a degree that might not do anything for you?"

Smith said that he knew what an apprenticeship was and after talking with representatives of Apprenticeship Carolina he knew it was something DCIT needed to offer."

[Read more here](#)

Nearly 84 percent of Darlington County juniors earned WorkKeys certificate

Press Release - October 15, 2017

"DARLINGTON, S.C. - Nearly 84 percent of Darlington County School District (DCSD) juniors who took the ACT WorkKeys in the 2016-17 school year earned a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), according to data released today by ACT.

ACT WorkKeys is a workplace skills assessment that identifies how prepared students are for available jobs and careers. The test was administered to all 11th graders in South Carolina, and DCSD's 83.8 percent average to earn an NCRC compared to the state average of 84 percent.

Last year, 50,681 students took the WorkKeys assessment statewide. Sixty-one percent of students earned "Silver" or higher, indicating they have the skills necessary for 67 percent of the jobs in ACT's jobs database. Fifteen percent of students scored "Gold" or higher indicating they are equipped with the skills for at least 93 percent of profiled jobs."

[Read more here](#)

DCEDP SPOTLIGHT: Workforce



Teri Luther of Apprenticeship Carolina
803-896-5206 LutherT@sctechsystem.edu

Apprenticeship Carolina™ is a statewide program of the SC Technical College System that works to increase awareness and use of registered apprenticeships in the state.

What is a registered apprenticeship?

A registered apprenticeship is an employer-sponsored job related education program that cultivates highly skilled workers who meet the workforce demands of a competitive global economy. A registered apprenticeship consists of two complementary components: supervised on-the-job training and related technical instruction

What are the benefits of having a registered apprenticeship?

Apprenticeship programs provide standardized training and operational consistency that in turn ensures reliable workforce performance. Apprenticeship can also lead to improved employee retention through an overall increase in employee morale and motivation. In addition, apprenticeship has been credited with increased productivity and quality as apprentices apply their skills and knowledge to their work. Apprenticeship programs provide bench strength for future leadership - it helps bridge that talent gap that many companies struggle with as their workforce ages through effective transfer of knowledge from seasoned employees to new workers.

What is the apprenticeship tax credit?

Eligible South Carolina businesses who sponsor a registered apprenticeship program can receive a \$1,000 direct tax credit for each registered apprentice employed for at least seven months during each year of apprenticeship for up to four years.

[Read more here](#)

INNOVATION IN DARLINGTON COUNTY



McCall Farms named finalist for Gama Innovation Award

Florence Morning News, by Jessica Imbimbo, October 18, 2017

"Glory Farms vegetables, a McCall Farms brand, has been named a packaging finalist for the 2017 Gama Innovation Awards.

The Glory Farms brand of canned premium vegetables changed their packaging earlier this year into a "see-thru" can, a style of packaging unprecedented in the canned food industry. The clear plastic can was developed in partnership with Sonoco Products, a global packaging leader."

[Read more here](#)



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