

South Carolina Aerospace News



NEW CAROLINA
SOUTH CAROLINA'S COUNCIL ON COMPETITIVENESS



South Carolina
Department of Commerce
Just right for business.

June 2014 - Volume I

WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of the South Carolina Aerospace News, a monthly newsletter to bring news and information relevant to the aerospace sector in South Carolina. Please share with others so they too can subscribe and receive future editions.

The South Carolina Department of Commerce and New Carolina have formed a partnership to advance and promote the aerospace sector. New Carolina received an Investing Manufacturing Community Partnership grant from the U.S. Economic Administration and Commerce is providing a portion of the match for the grant.

THE TEAM

The aerospace team consists of Senior Advisor Charlie Farrell, who is also serving as Executive Coordinator for the Military Base Task Force, Deborah Cameron is serving as director of Aerospace Initiatives and Wayne Fritz is serving as senior project manager.

Wayne recently retired from Commerce after 20 years of service and joins the team with extensive experience working with aviation and aerospace projects.

Our team is convening regional meetings of both the aerospace firms and the stakeholder groups who support the industry over the next several months, leading up to a statewide meeting of the firms in August. The Aerospace Team is also working with the University of South Carolina Moor School of Business and the McNair Center for Aerospace on an Economic Impact Study. This will be the first economic impact study of the aerospace since 2006. The results will be unveiled at [Aerospace Industry Day](#) on August 19.

SUPPORT CHAIN NEWS



Meeting the Workforce Demands of South Carolina's Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing Industry

Technological developments in advanced manufacturing have created a situation where business and industry struggle to fill high-demand positions with high-skilled employees. Often referred to as a skills gap, this dilemma represents a very real challenge for employers.

At the most recent US News STEM Solutions Summit, it was reported that a relatively small increase of just 10% in STEM degree completion would solve our national workforce problem. South Carolina is no exception. In our state, STEM-related occupations represent the fastest-growing, highest-wage jobs in the state.

Aerospace provides a prime example. This industry is growing by leaps and bounds in the South, and South Carolina is leading the way. According to a recent article in USA Today, aerospace jobs in South Carolina jumped from 865 workers to 5,685 workers between 2007 and 2012.

The SC Technical College System has been on the cusp of this growth providing the education and training necessary to build a skilled workforce for the advanced manufacturing and aerospace industry in South Carolina. Across the state, our 16 colleges understand the importance of aligning curriculum and program offerings with the specific needs of business and industry. This alignment is showcased through the exponential growth in our Associates in Applied Science degree as well as increased enrollment in such programs as mechanical engineering technology, industrial maintenance technology and machine tool technology, among others. In fact, nearly half of our recently added programs across the state were in these areas.

Apprenticeship is another tool the System employs to address the workforce skills gap in South Carolina. Established in 2007, Apprenticeship Carolina™ works to increase awareness and use of registered apprenticeships in the state. The growth has been phenomenal. Since its inception in 2007, the number of programs has increased seven-fold from 90 to nearly 650 registered programs today.

At the annual convention of the American Association of Community Colleges earlier this month, Vice President Joe Biden addressed the crowd and praised community colleges as the best route into the middle class in a time when the "aperture" into the middle class is shrinking. He went on to introduce a new federal program designed to encourage, coordinate and possibly help fund apprenticeship programs between employers and community colleges. During his speech, South Carolina's approach was held up as a model for the nation, Biden said, "Here's the kicker - South Carolina increased its number of apprentices from 700 in 2007 to nearly 10,000 today. That's incredible!"

Through its colleges and internationally-renowned programs, the SC Technical College System provides access to a quality higher education and advanced skills training for the majority of the state's undergraduates and first-generation college students. The System opens doors and bridges gaps by working to ensure high-demand positions are filled with high-skilled employees.

And, yes, the results are incredible.

*James C. "Kimmie" Williamson, Ph.D.
System President*

CHALLENGER CENTER TOURS BOEING DREAMLEARNER

Carolyn Donlan, Director of the Challenger Center in Richland County School District One, led a group of adult educators and aviation enthusiasts to Boeing to participate in the DreamLearner experience in March.

Boeing offers the program state-wide as a way to encourage students to consider the aerospace sector as a career option. The two-hour program covers math and science standards students are required to learn and takes place in a beautiful room overlooking the production floor of the 787 final assembly building.

The Challenger Learning Center of Richland County School District One is an aeronautics and Space-themed educational program whose mission is to create a scientifically literate population with the skills needed for success.

For more information about the Challenger Learning Center, visit www.thechallengercenter.net



SUPPLY CHAIN

Jason Premo, co-owner and CEO of ADEX Machining Technologies, explains why South Carolina is [just right for ADEX](#). The company has become one of the state's fastest-growing businesses in recent years. ADEX supplies the aerospace, defense and energy sectors.

INDUSTRY NEWS

[South Carolina leads the way](#) as aerospace manufacturing takes off in southern states.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- SCAA will host the 3rd annual Aviation Dinner the evening of August 19.
- The University of South Carolina McNair Center will host an [Aerospace Industry Day](#) on August 19.

More details on both of these events will be available next month.

COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Toray announces in the Upstate.](#)

[Toray Industries, Inc.](#), a Tokyo-based manufacturer of fibers and textiles, plastic resins, films and carbon fiber composite materials, has selected Spartanburg County, S.C. for its next global facility. The \$1 billion investment over the next decade is expected to create 500 new jobs and represents one of the largest initial capital investments in South Carolina's history.

[Curtis Wright moves corporate headquarters to Charlotte.](#)

[Curtiss-Wright Corp.](#), a manufacturing company with roots that stretch to the Wright Brothers, has quietly moved its headquarters to Ballantyne, providing a boost to the Charlotte area's defense and aerospace sector.

FUN FACT

South Carolina has 73 firms that have achieved [AS9100 certification](#)!

"Try to learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make all of them yourself."

-Author Unknown

Deborah Cameron

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