Dear friends,

Spartanburg Community College students are able to access a new dimension of learning thanks to the generous contributions of the business community.

In February, SeeDaten, Inc., ioxp GmbH, SCRA, and Milliken & Company announced donations that will help SCC instructors to easily transfer their teaching and experiential knowledge to students via the latest augmented reality and reality-based classroom technologies.

In cooperation with its technologies supply partner, ioxp GmbH of Mannheim, Germany, SeeDaten made an in-kind donation in excess of $135,000 to install, train and support SCC leadership and students. SeeDaten is based at the college’s Spark Center SC and is an IT solution provider for B2B applications in augmented reality/mixed reality technologies.

This technology allows instructors to place digital information on top of the physical world, creating a learning environment in which students can experience and complete a process in their own classroom/lab setting via augmented reality. Faculty in the School of Health Sciences and the School of Advanced Manufacturing and Industrial Technologies have already been trained to use the equipment, and SCC plans to expand to more schools in the future.

Milliken has invested, via a considerable in-kind donation, to assist SCC in creating innovative approaches to learning and to help increase manufacturing readiness through the SeeDaten technology. SCRA also has invested, via an Industry Demonstration Grant.

Through this partnership, students are able to learn on modern platforms, including mobile devices, in an interactive and immersive manner, while also benefiting from the latest technologies. At the same time, industries can be assured that SCC students are prepared to help them deliver quality results effectively.

Partnerships like these help keep SCC students and faculty at the forefront of training the next generation of workers.

Sincerely,

Henry C. Giles, Jr.
President, Spartanburg Community College
Mark Bellissimo shares guiding principles with 2019 Economic Visionaries attendees

During an evening honoring some of the Upstate’s visionary business leaders, Mark Bellissimo shared the five principles that guide his success.

“Visions are a dime a dozen, and they don’t come with majority support,” said Bellissimo, managing partner, Tryon International Equestrian Partners. “The true challenge is actually turning vision into reality.”

Bellissimo said the following five principles guide him:

- Dream big, but define victory;
- Maintain balance and perspective;
- Lift up the people around you;
- Be resilient, agile and patient; and
- Manage the critics as change is difficult for many.

Hosted by the SCC Foundation, Economic Visionaries brings many components to the spotlight – four companies selected from a large number of nominations, a visible keynote speaker and 66 supportive sponsors. The annual event, held at the Spartanburg Marriott on March 21 this year, celebrates the positive impact Spartanburg Community College provides across the three county service area and the significant impact economic development brings to South Carolina.

During his remarks, SCC President Henry C. Giles, Jr. described this year’s four Economic Visionaries as companies and leaders who embrace the future with imagination, wisdom and energy.

Thank You to our 2019 Sponsors

The The Futurist

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Spartanburg Medical Research
Barbara Rippy
Sun Trust Bank
TPM/Children’s Museum
Union County Development Board
Upstate Alliance & Ten at the Top
Hi Bailey Ford Lincoln Young Office

The Inventor

Spartanburg Economic Futures Group

Table Sponsor
Congratulations to the 2019 Economic Visionaries award winners!

AWL Automation LLC

AWL Automation LLC is a systems integrator of state-of-the-art automated high-tech machinery. The company established its operations in Spartanburg County in 2017. “With the successful launch of our newest location, AWL Automation LLC demonstrates the realization of our reach as a truly global company. Spartanburg’s continual development as a center of economic growth and stability provides a unique opportunity to showcase our decades of industry experience in a way that benefits everyone around us,” states Per Blohm, AWL managing director. “We are excited- as an organization and as a family- to share our vision of employee development, sustainability, innovation, and economic involvement with our new community. With tonight’s recognition, we will strive to exemplify how our mission of ensuring global productivity begins and ends locally.”

Lockhart Power

Founded in 1912, Lockhart Power Company is an investor-owned electric utility that provides cost-effective and reliable electric power generation, transmission, distribution and lighting services to a range of residential, commercial, industrial and wholesale customers. “I am humbled and honored that we have been named a 2019 Economic Visionary,” said Bryan Stone, president of Lockhart Power. “For us, our purpose of serving the public goes beyond donating and investing tens of millions of dollars in renewable energy and infrastructure. We invest our time, expertise and money in dozens of community and educational initiatives as well as charitable endeavors which strengthen and sustain our communities. All of our employees are part of these efforts in various ways, and this recognition is greatly appreciated by all of us at Lockhart Power!”

Polydeck Screening Corporation

Polydeck Screening Corporation develops innovative screening solutions that revolutionize the way aggregate, coal, and mining producers screen their products. “Being selected as an Economic Visionary is a great honor, not just for our leadership, but for the entire Polydeck family who works day in and day out to creatively, sustainably and effectively achieve our goals,” said Peter Freisgle, president and CEO, Polydeck Screening Corporation. “Thank you to the Spartanburg Community College Foundation for your efforts to highlight the importance of collaboration, excellence and innovation in business; providing companies the opportunity to use their success and resources to support our community. We are truly thankful.”

Duke Energy in South Carolina

Duke Energy in South Carolina serves approximately 740,000 electric retail customers and 142,000 natural gas customers. “It’s a great honor indeed to be recognized as an Economic Visionary,” said Kodwo Ghartey-Tagoe, state president for Duke Energy in South Carolina. “Duke Energy – from its start here in South Carolina in 1904 - is at its core an economic development company. For more than a century, we have worked in partnership with state and local authorities to attract business investment and jobs to this state, and those efforts successfully continue today.”
Campus Highlights

SCC Central Campus

The Central Campus hosted the Discover SCC Open House event on March 23, introducing hundreds of potential students to areas of study and career paths. Faculty members from all six of SCC's Schools of Learning were on hand to speak with students and show them what a typical day at the college is like. Students also were able to visit the SCC Student Hub, the college's new student center. The college also offered free applications to those in attendance, as well as enrollment assistance and financial aid workshops.

SCC Cherokee County Campus

In March, the Cherokee County Campus installed the Festo Industry 4.0 system – the first in the state to have the technology. The manufacturing production system simulates processes such as communication, inventory and controls. The technology will allow SCC students to keep up with the latest technologies being implemented in today's manufacturing environment. Commonly known as the fourth industrial revolution, Industry 4.0 is a trend of automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies. Plans also call for the equipment to be installed at the Central Campus after renovations there are complete.

SCC Downtown Campus

The Downtown Campus is home to Spartanburg's newest BCycle location - the sixth station in the community and the first to offer dockless bicycles. Unlike the other stations, these bikes can be checked out via an interface on the handlebars and can be secured to any public bicycle rack via an accompanying lock. These bikes - which feature the SCC and Partners for Active Living logos - make it even more convenient to grab lunch, run an errand or just get exercise. College and community members dedicated the new BCycle station on March 19.

SCC Tyger River Campus

The District Five Family Ministries Food Pantry, in collaboration with community partners, coordinates community donations utilizing the facilities of the Middle Tyger Community Center. Recently, the pantry experienced shortages of critical items. Tyger River Campus students, faculty and staff volunteered to host a food drive and held a two-week competition among classes to see who could bring in the most canned goods. At the conclusion, the container was filled. Wanda Fowler, interim director, and Matthew LaJeunesse of the Middle Tyger Community Center visited the Tyger River Campus and thanked the students for their participation, emphasizing the importance of volunteerism and community involvement.

SCC Union County Campus

The Union County Campus hosted an instructor and cadets from the United States Military Academy at West Point on Feb. 9 during the campus' annual robotics workshop for middle school students. The workshop is an annual collaboration between the USMA and SCC that promotes student interest in robotics and other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.
A $5,000 grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust is helping SCC faculty document and tag ornamental specimens in the SCC Arboretum.

The project will use the digital platform Plants Map to create an accessible, online map of SCC’s arboretum and identify plantings as the college replaces $500,000 in ornamental horticulture destroyed by a tornado in October 2017. The digital database will allow students, the community and people across the globe to explore the diverse trees and plants on the Central Campus by using an app on their phone.

Local sources provided $5,000 in matching funds, bringing the total project funding to $10,000.

“We are excited that this grant will allow our students, our community, and individuals all over the world to learn more about the diverse trees and plants in our arboretum via the Plants Map internet database,” said Jason Bagwell, department chair for SCC Horticulture Programs.