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**The SC Technical College System  
Plan for Growth and Development**

# The SC Technical College System and the System Foundation:

## Collaborating on Innovative New Opportunities to Educate South Carolina's 21st Century Workforce

### Collaborate. Innovate. Educate.



These are strong words. More importantly, they are accurate descriptions of how the SC Technical College System, and its companion Foundation, approach their role in developing the workforce South Carolina needs to succeed in the 21st Century.

Most experts agree that successful economic development is increasingly dependent on the presence of a flexible, highly-skilled, technologically-adept, and motivated workforce. This type of workforce is also key to South Carolina's ability to take innovations pioneered in the state and commercialize them, effectively keeping both the intellectual and financial fruits of research here in South Carolina, where they

will provide the greatest impact for our citizens.


The SC Technical College System is committed to providing the innovative education and training needed to develop and sustain that workforce, giving South Carolina the competitive edge it needs to excel in the new knowledge economy. Through its statewide network of 16 Technical Colleges, the System has the knowledge, skills, experience and reach to ensure the state develops and maintains a 21st Century work force that is second to none. We envision the SC Technical College System being a leader in promoting:

- Cutting-edge technological education
- Workforce excellence across the state
- Public/private partnerships and strategic initiatives

Accomplishing these goals requires collaboration—strategic alliances and support that focus on three main areas: workforce excellence in support of economic development; visionary leadership; and quality of life. With the support of our partners, we must seek innovative educational solutions in our Colleges, facilitating practices and programs that will help strengthen regional and statewide economies.

South Carolina is a wonderful place to live and work. With your help, we can make it even better. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration as we work together to ensure the System, its Colleges and the Center for Accelerated Technology Training continue to provide South Carolina's competitive edge.

Sincerely,



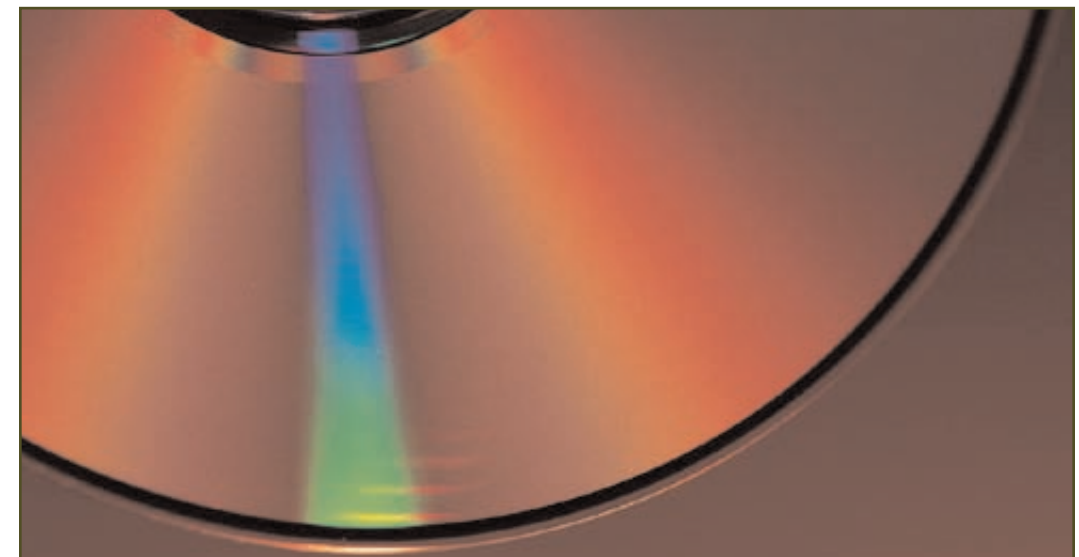
Barry W. Russell  
System President

# SC Technical College System: Driving Educational Innovations for South Carolina's Future

South Carolina's leaders have long recognized the importance of education to the state's future, both in terms of economic prosperity and quality of life. Education inspires, opening doors to countless possibilities for the future. Increasing the educational attainment of our citizens—and thereby enhancing the overall quality of our workforce—is one of the major goals of the SC Technical College System.

South Carolina's Technical Colleges provide "demand-driven" programs designed to meet the evolving needs of specific businesses and industries, while also building and expanding general skill sets and "soft skill" abilities that enhance overall workforce readiness. We offer an array of academic and technical programs, including opportunities in high demand areas such as:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Automotive Technology
- Aviation
- Computer Technology
- Dental Hygiene
- Engineering Technology
- Hospitality, Tourism and Culinary Arts
- Industrial Maintenance
- Nursing
- Radiology
- Respiratory Care
- Surgical Technology



## A Strong Partner for Statewide Economic Growth and Development

The impact of the SC Technical College System and the Technical Colleges is statewide. For example, the System provides a cumulative economic impact in South Carolina of nearly \$2.5 billion. For each dollar the state invests in the System, it sees a return of \$12.10. And on average, South Carolina workers with associate degrees earn approximately \$11,000 more than those with a high school diploma, increasing per capita income.

The SC Technical College System responds to critical workforce demands, and is providing graduates in critical workforce areas for the state, improving overall quality of life and enhancing economic development. As an example, nearly one-third of the graduates from SC's Technical Colleges in recent years were in Health Sciences – a critical workforce area. Starting salaries for healthcare workers begin between \$30,000 and \$45,000—exceeding the state's per capita income of \$28,353.

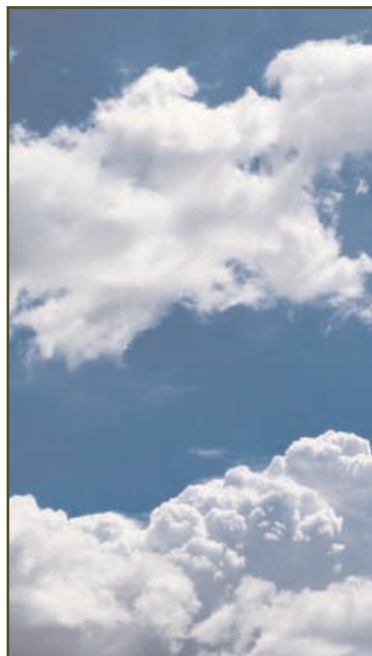
Within recent years\*, the System's Colleges increased ADN graduates by 33%, and PN graduates by 44%. In addition, two-thirds of the new associate degree programs adopted by Colleges for Spring and Fall 2007 focused on healthcare.

Other areas seeing increases in the number of graduates include:

- early care and childhood—154%;
- radiologic technology—64%;
- surgical technology—40%;
- electronics engineering technology—21%.\*

\*increase from 2002–2006

The SC Technical College System, through its Center for Accelerated Technology Training's (CATT) readySC™ programs and its 16 Technical Colleges, is an integral part of the state's economic development efforts. In 2005-2006, CATT was involved in 110 new and expanding economic development projects across the state. This fiscal year, CATT is slated to train more than 5,600 workers. Because of CATT, South Carolina was recently ranked 5th in a list of states with top workforce development programs.



## The Challenge: Defining Needs and Solutions for the Evolving Workforce

One of the greatest challenges in developing and maintaining the new economy workforce is the need to constantly evolve, re-tool and refine educational and training options. The rate of change that businesses need to accommodate today is exponentially greater than in the past—and that translates directly into the needs of the workforce that supports those businesses.

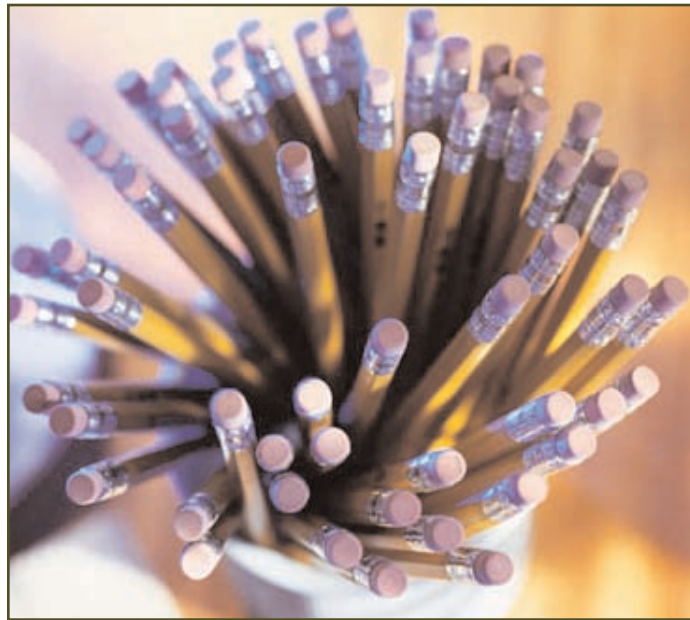
South Carolina's educational rankings, however, indicate many of our citizens may not be positioned to participate in more highly skilled jobs. For instance, South Carolina ranks last in the nation in the percentage of adults over 25 who have a high school diploma. And almost a fifth of South Carolina households in recent years were headed by high school dropouts. Contrast this with national trends that indicate sixty-five percent of jobs in the future will require a two-year degree or certificate, yet only 32 percent of our ninth graders will pursue one.

Studies of occupational employment trends across the U.S. and the other industrialized nations prove that nothing is consistently more important to economic growth and vitality than an area's human resources. However, employers statewide often face a challenging situation in the availability of workers possessing the skills they need to succeed. South Carolina has a considerable number of adults who are unemployed or underemployed because they lack the foundation and technical skills to perform in the occupational areas identified as significant to the future of the state. In fact in some South Carolina counties, especially along the I-95 corridor and in the Piedmont region, unemployment rates exceed nine percent.

## The Next Step: Preparing the Foundation for the Workforce of Tomorrow

To achieve the common goals of economic prosperity and improved quality of life, the SC Technical College System needs partners who are willing to invest in providing opportunities and enhancements that will help the System and the Technical Colleges be truly exceptional. Our traditional sources of funding cannot keep pace with the rising costs in higher education, nor provide us the funds we need to complement targeted economic initiatives in the state with development of new and innovative programs. Private sector funds can provide the margin of excellence in achieving the SCTCS's vision to be the premier provider of educational opportunity and a leading force for the social and economic vitality of the region. As a System, we have identified three primary areas of focus in which support from private partners could help provide more opportunities to develop the workforce our state needs to succeed:

- Workforce Excellence in support of Economic Development
- Fostering Visionary Leadership
- Quality of Life



“Private sector funds can provide the margin of excellence in achieving the SCTCS's vision to be the premier provider of educational opportunity and a leading force for the social and economic vitality of the region.”

## Workforce Excellence in Support of Economic Development

To meet the technical training needs of our business and industry, including those innovation companies that the state desires to recruit, South Carolina must find ways to develop and prepare non-traditional populations for the workforce. The SC Technical College System Foundation will support the System through initiatives that focus on innovation and workforce excellence.

### Promoting State and Regional Innovation

The SC Technical College System will respond to strategic economic development opportunities and initiatives in South Carolina by investing in the development of new programs and services in support of emerging clusters, such as alternative fuels and agribusiness. A fund to support innovation will allow the System to be flexible and adaptive in seeding innovative, collaborative projects among the Technical Colleges and in responding with creativity and innovation in support of targeted System-wide initiatives.

The SC Technical College System seeks resources that will allow us to move in concert with the state's economic development strategies of focusing on education, building on existing and emerging industrial clusters to create better wealth and opportunity, and building an environment of fostering innovation.

### Enhancing Workforce Competitiveness

Providing a highly skilled talent pool is one of the best investments a region can make when seeking to gain a competitive edge in the emerging economy. The U.S. Department of Labor has identified high growth sectors that are projected to increase in substantial numbers in the future and are being transformed by technology. Sectors that are targeted for growth in South Carolina include advanced manufacturing, automotive, construction, alternative fuels, and agribusiness. Further, South Carolina's business and economic development communities have expressed an urgent need for more effective ways to transition the state's potential workforce into skilled employees, particularly in industry-critical and high demand areas such as welding and commercial truck driving. If additional resources were available, the SC Technical College System could leverage these resources to help expand programs, develop accelerated job readiness programs based upon an annual identification of critical need areas, provide equipment matching funds, and prepare more individuals for employment in targeted fields.

## Fostering Visionary Leadership



The SC Technical College System is recognized as a leader in workforce development locally, regionally, and statewide. This is due in large part to visionary, talented leadership at the System and the Technical College levels, as well as dedicated faculty and staff who believe in what they are doing. Yet, like all businesses today, the System faces the challenges of an aging workforce, the need to attract and retain quality leaders in and out of the classroom, and ensure that these leaders have access to current technology and equipment. For SCTCS to uphold its value of providing excellence, administrators, faculty and staff

must stay current in their skills in order to facilitate the learning process for students. Changing economic realities, continually emerging technologies, and new instructional techniques have pushed the need for ongoing leadership and professional development beyond the SCTCS's capability.

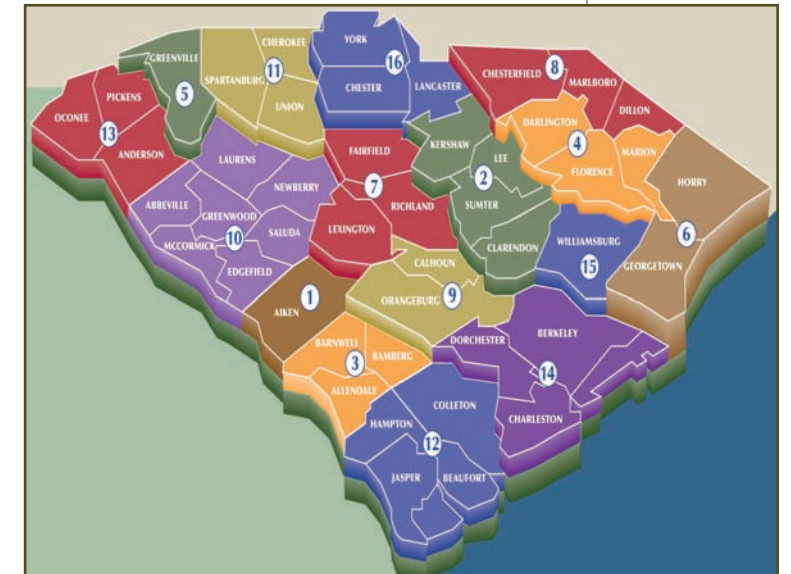
Additional funding will provide support to leaders across the SCTCS and the Technical Colleges for initiatives and programs designed to strengthen the System as a whole, and that will facilitate opportunities for personal growth and professional development for current and future leaders.

“Changing economic realities, continually emerging technologies, and new instructional techniques have pushed the need for ongoing leadership and professional development beyond the SCTCS's capability.”

## Enhancing Quality of Life

1. [Aiken Technical College](http://www.atc.edu)  
www.atc.edu
2. [Central Carolina Technical College](http://www.cctech.edu)  
www.cctech.edu
3. [Denmark Technical College](http://www.denmarktech.edu)  
www.denmarktech.edu
4. [Florence-Darlington Technical College](http://www.fdtc.edu)  
www.fdtc.edu
5. [Greenville Technical College](http://www.gvltec.edu)  
www.gvltec.edu
6. [Horry-Georgetown Technical College](http://www.hgtc.edu)  
www.hgtc.edu
7. [Midlands Technical College](http://www.midlandstech.edu)  
www.midlandstech.edu
8. [Northeastern Technical College](http://www.netc.edu)  
www.netc.edu
9. [Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College](http://www.octech.edu)  
www.octech.edu
10. [Piedmont Technical College](http://www.ptc.edu)  
www.ptc.edu
11. [Spartanburg Community College](http://www.sccsc.edu)  
www.sccsc.edu
12. [Technical College of the Lowcountry](http://www.tcl.edu)  
www.tcl.edu
13. [Tri-County Technical College](http://www.tctc.edu)  
www.tctc.edu
14. [Trident Technical College](http://www.tridenttech.edu)  
www.tridenttech.edu
15. [Williamsburg Technical College](http://www.wiltech.edu)  
www.wiltech.edu
16. [York Technical College](http://www.yourktech.com)  
www.yourktech.com

With a focus on responsiveness, the SCTCS and its Technical Colleges strive to build capacity in programs that are in areas of critical need to the state. The national shortage of health-care workers is well documented and South Carolina is no exception. Our state's population is aging and the demand by healthcare employers for more healthcare workers in a range of fields from nursing to respiratory therapy, and from surgical technology to occupational therapy is well documented. Many local areas are already experiencing shortages in some of the high need areas. Additionally, technology advances are being made in the healthcare field every year that require new and/or additional training and certification.





The South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) reports that critical shortages in nursing and allied health threaten "...to drive the cost of services up, while driving access to care and quality down." Access to quality health care is a quality of life issue for South Carolinians, as well as an economic development issue for companies currently located or looking to locate here. This fund will position the System to creatively respond in helping Technical College nursing and allied health care programs to expand, to develop programs for student success, and to obtain the updated equipment found in today's healthcare facilities.

SC Technical Colleges are institutions of lifelong learning for a diverse group of South Carolinians. One of the most valuable roles of a Technical College is to provide opportunities for continued education and employment for less traditional students including minorities, displaced workers, single parents, career changers, and discharged military personnel. Technical Colleges add value and quality of life to their local communities by offering access to an array of learning opportunities that address the broadening of personal knowledge and expansion of professional skills. This fund will support the development and piloting of seminars and workshops that address a broad array of high interest topics supporting local communities – topics such as those that address quality of life issues for an aging population.

#### The Call to Action!

The SC Technical College System has identified statewide priority initiatives in workforce excellence, visionary leadership, and enhanced quality of life that will ensure the continued success of our leaders, faculty, and students in meeting the economic and workforce development demands of the state. These initiatives will help the System prepare employees to compete in the global economy and will enhance our ability to pursue new opportunities. Your strategic investment will ensure that the System continues to respond with creativity and innovation, and provide statewide leaders who will work towards collaborative solutions to give South Carolina a competitive edge as a wonderful place to do business and to live.

“This fund will position the System to creatively respond in helping Technical College nursing and allied health care programs to expand, to develop programs for student success, and to obtain the updated equipment found in today's healthcare facilities.”

#### Investment Benefits

- A better trained and motivated workforce
- An increase in the earning potential of South Carolinians
- A more competitive environment to attract and retain major corporations
- Fast track training programs in high demand areas
- Facilitation of apprenticeships as an education/training option for employers and Technical Colleges
- Increase in the access and use of data in making administrative and instructional decisions
- Investing in “Seeds for Change”—innovative pilot programs that can grow into best practice models for all Technical Colleges
- New and enhanced programs that respond to economic opportunities
- Increasing the state's ability to be competitive in the global economy and attract higher technology jobs to South Carolina
- Diversified training and learning opportunities for communities
- Increased capacity of Technical College healthcare programs responsive to state and local needs
- Opportunities for engaging leaders and external partners in exploring opportunities and initiating activities that promote South Carolina's economic and workforce development
- Targeted research initiatives to support data driven decisions about new programs and best practices