

Special Interest:

- Technology conferences and meetings are a great success.
- South Carolina Technology Alliance continues to track our state's patents.
- Three who are making a difference.
- DOC small business tour.
- SC Hosts First Robotics competition.



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Over 4000 Attend Various Technology Meetings, Seminars and Conferences

The last few weeks have been the most active we've experienced in terms of technology, entrepreneur meetings, USC's Citizens School of Nano technology, software association seminars, venture capital workshops and tech connect cocktails hours. Many of these events were hosted by tech companies seeking to express their thanks to the various groups that have worked so hard over the past few years in bringing our technology community into our state's spotlight. See page 4 for pictures of some of these events. You hopefully will find yourself in some of the photographs. Look hard, see how many faces you recognize. It truly has been the month of who's-who of tech happenings around the state.

Did you know that after six plus years we have a South Carolina Venture Capital Fund?

The details and activities of funding the Fund are being handled by our Department of Commerce. There is much work to do contacting the various groups that will be providing the actual funding. Keep asking the DOC every time you see them about how the funding is coming along. We have all worked to get this Act passed. Governor Sanford listed this as one of his priorities for this year. See the entire story on page 3. We are truly thankful that the Governor made the decision to work with the legislature on changing the bobtailing laws and did not sue.

South Carolina Innovation Index

Will be released at the Southern Governors' meeting this summer. For the last several years the South Carolina Technology Alliance has been working with the Southern Technology Council and other Southern states to create an innovation index that measures each of our states' progress toward a set of goals that were agreed to by each of our Southern Governors. The **2002 Innovation Index** can be found on the South Carolina Technology Alliances web page under "Tech News". The first official look will be shared with the Governors at the upcoming Southern Growth Policy Board meeting in Oklahoma this June. For a sneak peek check our www on 6-12-04

BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced a grant of more than \$390,000 to help Governors begin to think about how to create high-performing rural schools that ultimately improve graduation and college-going rates throughout

the South. The project, *New Traditions: Options for Rural High School Excellence*, will focus on providing Southern state education leaders new ways of meeting the challenge of improving struggling rural schools, most notably by identifying a

range of successful schools that can be emulated and replicated. Our South Carolina educators are very excited about this grant and the promise it brings to many of our children who live in rural areas of our state. Thanks Bill & Melinda!

Department of Commerce Playing To Different Audiences Across State and the Feedback Is Mixed

Secretary Bob Faith has played to different audiences around the state and the feedback has been mixed. The message where the secretary was able to attend was very upbeat and he heard lots of discussion. Will Lacey and Chuck Bundy took very detailed notes. They have committed to get information back to each of the groups with answers to questions that were not answered. A final report on the sessions will be presented to the Governor later next month. Issues like procurement were by far the most discussed and questioned. Most small businesses want more business from the state. Many have tried for years to meet the various bid requirements, but finally gave

up. Many of those in attendance expressed a real need for special advantages for South Carolina owned and operated small businesses. Others questioned why so much of the state's business was



"Chuck Bundy meets with CTEC"

going to out-of-state companies? The DOC staff has already begun to address many of the concerns of our small businesses. They will be hosting a series of seminars and meetings where various state agencies will be available to find ways to increase opportunities for these small businesses. These agencies will come prepared to help each of these small businesses. They will leave with a new understanding of how to increase their chances of landing state contracts. A large number of these businesses are weak in their understanding of the RFP's and RFI's process. Similar meetings were held by CTEC. For more help or to have a chance to give your input, e-mail Jason Williamson: jasonw@sctech.org

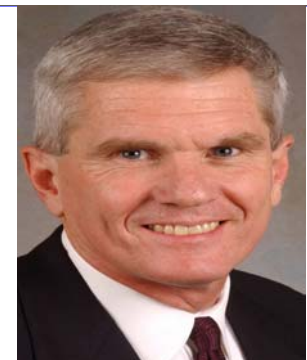
South Carolina Research Universities Presidents Awarded the GSSM's Charles Towns Awards for Commitment To Work

"It seems just like yesterday that someone made the comment, Oh, our universities will never work together on anything." Think again and observe the wonderful progress that has been made by all three of our research universities and more importantly the presidents and their personal commitments to one another. It all started with the Greenwood Genetics Center's efforts to create a facility where our best research students could collaborate and work

together to bring the best from each of our universities. This was all made possible by Dr. Roger Stevenson, his staff, Gary Powers CTC and a special group of technology leaders and the strong support of the Greenwood business community. The business plan and dozens of presentations were made before the presidents were ever asked to come to Greenwood.

The Centers of Excellence was the next major contributor to this outstanding effort. So much has taken place since then. A few months ago the Governor's School for Science and Math decided to recognize the work being done by the presidents of each of our Research Universities. They were honored at the Business Leadership Advisory Board Annual Meeting last month. Way to Go! MUSC, USC and Clemson.

Three Presidents Who Are Changing Our State!



ThinkTec and Innoventure Registrations are Hot! Agendas are Loaded With Outstanding Speakers and Topics



New capacities in business and community are advanced first and foremost through fundamental shifts of mind.

May 13, 2004



The conference focused on introducing the venture capital community to nine high-impact South Carolina companies and Centers of Research discussions featuring leading officials from South Carolina's Research Universities.

May 20, 2004



GLOBALY
POSITIONING
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New Coordinates for Prosperity

Will explore how the Southern states are connected to the global economy, determine our current position and find new coordinates for the South to fully engage in the global economy.

June 13-15, 2004

Matching Dollars For Life Sciences are Adding Up Fast

South Carolina Technology Alliance

2004 Tech & Legislative Agenda

1. ✓ Passed Venture Capital Act
2. ✓ Passed Life Sciences Act
3. ✓ Created Innovation Fund
4. ✓ Internet Stalker, Predator and ID Protection
5. ✓ Small Business Regulatory Act



Department of Commerce is contacting the various investors for the South Carolina Investment Act. They are calling on banks, insurance companies and captive insurance companies to begin filling the venture capital reserves until the Venture Capital Board Members are named by the Governor, the Chairman of Senate Finance, the Senate Pro Tem, the Speaker and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means.

H. 3900 and S. 560 Make Life Sciences and VC Act a Reality

With the recently passed South Carolina Venture Capital Act, we would be remiss if we did not say THANK YOU to a number of people who made this bill possible. They are Senator James Ritchie, Chairman Bobby Harrell, Tom Persons, Jason Williamson, and Carole Wilson; all three are with the South Carolina Technology Alliance. The Alliance has been working on this Act for over six years. Also Mr. Larry Wilson, Adrian Wilson, both Senior Managing Partners with The Trelys Fund, and Steve Draffin, Director of the Legislative Council, were catalyst in passing this Act, along with hundreds of others who made phone calls, did presentations, and wrote letters. Chairman Leatherman, Burnie Maybank, SCEDA, SCIN's and many other groups all had input into this Act and helped of all the members of the General Assembly understand the importance of this Act to our state and to the knowledge-base entrepreneurs and other exciting businesses and new start-ups around our state. This 50 million dollars will be put to great use and the number of new jobs that will be created because of the Venture Fund, will be exciting to watch. Look for more information in the next Terabyte. Hopefully, by the next issue, we will be on our way for the first funds for investments.

First Technology Exposition hosted by Midlands Tech and CTEC

This was a vision shared by Glen Oster, Ask A Pro; Rose Toney, Clear Channel; Joe Azar, Upstairs Audio; and Tom Ledbetter, Midlands Tech. Great job team! They have to have more tech equipment for purchase at the exposition. This was fun!



Palmetto State's First Robotics Competition

Students from all over our state have been building robots. Bell-South made a \$ 1,000,000 commitment to this technology and science because it builds math, science and technology skills. USC's Dean White said "This is so exciting. It's like a big pep rally with robots."



42 Graduate From First USC Citizens School for Nanotech

USC creates the state's first six week citizens school on nanotech and it was a huge success. The class was overflowing each week. The students had various backgrounds ranging from lawyers, students, doctors and writers. This was the first of its kind in the country.



Inaugural Conference Highlights

The **2004 Technology Exposition** was a historic gathering of business leaders and technology entrepreneurs from the Midlands. This show offered 100's of business leaders throughout the region an up close look at technology developed and sold by local tech entrepreneurs. There were over 60 tech companies signed up for the first Tech Expo. The ultimate goal of this show is to encourage business owners to "buy South Carolina" for all their technology needs. Next year promises to be three times larger and more informative. Make your plans now!

The FUELCELLSOUTH Crystal Flame Innovation Award Winners: Innovation in Industry, Research, and Entrepreneurship were presented by each of the sponsoring companies for each award.

Dr. Scribner
Innovation in Industry



Dr. Dennis Smith, Clemson & Dr. Earl Wagner
Innovation in Research



Dr. Sirivatch and USC Team
Entrepreneurship



South Carolina Patents Issued Year To Date 2004

State	Web site	Week	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
Alabama	www.alabama.gov		10	11	7	10	16	10	9	8	6	87
Arkansas	www.accessArkansas.org		3	3	2	4	1	2	4	3	6	28
Georgia	www.state.ga.us		29	27	31	36	28	33	33	32	34	283
Kentucky	www.kentucky.gov		8	8	11	16	6	13	5	10	10	87
Louisiana	www.state.la.us		7	3	9	12	10	14	6	8	5	74
Mississippi	www.state.ms.us		5	5	5	2	1	4	2	3	8	35
Missouri	www.state.mo.us		21	22	20	30	17	12	18	15	23	178
North Carolina	www.ncgov.com		43	47	47	50	41	43	41	35	45	392
Oklahoma	www.state.ok.us		19	8	9	10	10	9	9	11	8	93
Puerto Rico	www.puertoricowow.com		0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	5
South Carolina	www.myscgov.com		20	12	11	9	11	9	7	10	6	95
Tennessee	www.tennesseeanytime.org		15	26	16	21	17	16	16	15	20	162
Virginia	www.state.va.us		22	32	24	27	29	27	26	19	20	226
West Virginia	www.state.wv.us		0	5	1	4	2	1	3	1	1	18
Total each week			202	210	194	231	190	194	180	170	192	1763

New Survey Finds 52% of Rural Americans Now Using the Internet

The Pew Internet and American Life Project has released results of a survey finding that 52% of rural Americans are now using the Internet. But ,even though that figure reflects a steady increase, rural Americans still lag behind the two thirds of urban and suburban residents who say they use the Internet. Rural residents as a group are less affluent, less educated and older than the population as a whole, factors that correlate with reduced Internet use. Rural Internet users are more likely to look for religious information, but are less likely to shop, bank or make travel reservations online. If you want more information log onto..... www.pewinternet.org/reports/toc.asp

Palmetto Pillar Awards Salute Technology Community

The Columbia Information Technology Council (ITC), a program of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, is proud to announce the winners of seven categories for the 3rd Annual Palmetto Pillar Awards. The winners were all nominated for their exceptional contribution to technology in the Midlands area, include:

- Award: Community Service **BDPA (Greater Columbia Area Chapter)**
- Individual Achievement **Tom Persons**
- Small Enterprise **Biowatch Medical**
- Technology Application **DHEC—Division of Biostatistics and Health**
- Technology Development **AIG**
- Technology in Education **University of South Carolina, SC Department of Education and BellSouth**
- IT Leadership **Midlands Technical College Center for Excellence**

"This is the third year that the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce's Information Technology Council has sponsored the Palmetto Pillar Awards," says Ike McLeese, President of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce. "We are extremely pleased at the tremendous response we received from the six Midlands counties. This is clear evidence of our region's progress is on the way to becoming a true technology center." Designed to publicly recognize individuals and organizations spearheading technology achievement in the Midlands, these awards provide support to technology innovators and promote technology growth in the Midlands area.



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*E-mail hightech@sctech.org with your thoughts or suggestions for **The Terabyte***

Terabyte: A unit of computer memory or data storage capacity equal to 1024 gigabytesone trillion bytes

The South Carolina Technology Alliance is a 501c 3 non profit public private organization serving South Carolina, both inside and outside our borders and also around the world.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO HELP US CONTINUE TO LEAD OUR STATE'S MOVE INTO THE NEXT ECONOMY

Every dollar from the purchase of your South Carolina Technology License Tag



Get Your Tag Today!

goes to support the rural tech and entrepreneurial activities across our state. Our state is making great headway and the Southern Technology Council's Innovation Index indicates that we are moving up the ladder in most of the rankings. It's working! The South Carolina Technology Alliance will be publishing the official South Carolina Technology Review for 2004.

Call 803-748-1323 for information and details.

VC Stays Course in First Quarter with \$4.6B Invested

Venture capital (VC) kept up a steady pace in the first three months of 2004, according to the latest PricewaterhouseCoopers/Thomson Venture Economics/National Venture Capital Association MoneyTree™ Survey. Investments in the first quarter of 2004 totaled \$4.6 billion going into 618 companies, the data show. The figure is below the \$5.2 billion invested in the fourth quarter of 2003, but above the first quarter total of a year ago, \$4.2 billion. South Carolina came up on the bottom of the list with more than \$200,000. We need our VC Act active now.

Life Sciences companies outpaced other industries for the seventh consecutive quarter, among MoneyTree™

Survey highlights. Investments in the sector totaled \$1.3 billion, or 27 percent of all venture capital, and remained near their 12-year high reached in 2003. Biotech, alone, accounted for \$943 million, while Medical Devices garnered \$325 million.

Software, with 162 companies securing \$956 million, was the single largest industry category in Q1 2004. The industry reclaimed the top spot following a two-quarter run as the second-leading industry category behind Biotech. Investments into the Telecommunications Industry showed a slight increase over the prior quarter, with \$547 million going to 65 companies. Detailed information for the first quarter of 2004, as well as, some historical data dating back to 1995, is available by region, industry and stage of finance at <http://www.pwcmoneytree.com>.