

2024



CHARLESTON
COUNTY ■ SC
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT




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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

CONTENTS

- 2 Executive Director’s Letter
- 4 2024 Announcements
- 6 Industry Highlights
- 10 Industry Celebrations
- 12 Business Concierge Program
- 16 Economic Development Week
- 18 Community Builders
- 20 Social Leadership
- 22 Charleston County Industry Impact Awards
- 24 Economic Development Ambassador
- 25 Lifetime Achievement Award
- 28 Ecosystem
- 32 CCED Team

MISSION STATEMENT

To lead the advancement
of economic growth and
shared prosperity in
Charleston County.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Esteemed Colleagues and Friends,

The year 2024 was truly one for the record books—the single largest capital investment year in Charleston County’s history! Charleston County-based companies invested an unprecedented \$1.28 billion while creating 1,029 new jobs.

Beyond this remarkable investment, the diversity of the 15 companies making announcements in 2024 was equally impressive. These included The Boeing Company, which launched a historic expansion of its 787 program to increase production of its market-leading mid-size commercial airliner.

Seven of these announcements were in the tech sector, with four supporting the port and intermodal logistics industries. This landmark year also saw the development of Charleston County’s new maritime industrial park at the MacAlloy property and the onboarding of its first tenant, a port distribution firm. Other tech investments spanned industries such as animation, conduction technology, and electronic easement and title search solutions. Meanwhile, six announcements highlighted manufacturing projects producing everything from airplanes and chemicals to custom skillets, premium-quality flags, and delicious local craft beer.

As the Executive Director of the Charleston County Economic Development Department, I reflect on 2024 with immense pride and a touch of nostalgia, as it marks the conclusion of my 32-year career ahead of my retirement in January 2025. Economic development has been more than a job for our team—it has been a calling. For over three decades, we’ve embraced this mission with passion and determination, achieving milestones that have transformed our community. Together, we weathered the challenges of military base closures in the 1990s, diversified our economy, established five robust economic sectors, and built an award-winning program with a world-class staff. These efforts have cemented Charleston’s position as a leader on the national stage.

As I bid farewell, I am excited for what lies ahead. 2025 promises even more transformative opportunities, and I am confident that Charleston County is poised for continued growth and success.



With gratitude and optimism,

J. Steven Dykes
Executive Director



2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chair - Herbert Ravenel Sass, III

Vice Chair - Jenny Costa Honeycutt

Joe Boykin

Henry E. Darby

Larry Kobrovsky

Kylon Jerome Middleton

C. Brantley Moody

Teddie E. Pryor, Sr.

Robert L. Wehrman

County Administrator – Bill L. Tuten

AAA
Exceptionally
Strong

Fitch

Aaa
Exceptional

Moody's

AAA
Exceptionally
Strong

Standard
& Poors

Charleston County has a Standard & Poor's (S & P) bond rating of AAA and a Moody's Investors Service rating of AAA. These high ratings are evidence of excellence in fiscal management for a county government.

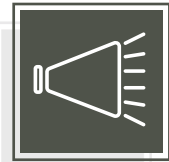
2024
ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Jobs:
1,029



Capital Investment:
\$1.28 Billion



15
announcements

EXPANDED in Charleston County



MOONDOG Animation Studio -
Animation and immersive experiences company



Gnosis Freight -
Leading provider of supply chain and logistics software



Tradd Advisory Company -
Freight transportation services provider



TTS Studios -
Custom fabrication company



Allegiance Flag Supply -
Producer of American flags



Portside Technologies -
Information technology (IT) services company



Eveon Containers -
Global online provider of used shipping containers



Smithey Ironware -
Cookware designer and manufacturer



OhmIQ, Inc. -
World leader in ohmic conduction technology development and licensing



Low Tide Brewing -
Craft beer manufacturer



Ingevity -
Global specialty chemicals and materials manufacturer



Boeing -
Sole production site for the 787 Dreamliner



Shipyard Creek Logistics Center -
Infrastructure investment with 160,250-square-foot transload facility on 42 acres adjacent to the SC Ports Hugh K. Leatherman Sr. Terminal



East Coast Warehouse & Distribution -
Leading temperature-controlled logistics provider



Mesa Land Services -
Provider of easement acquisition and title search solutions

INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

1



Forging Ahead in 2024

Charleston County has again proven that innovation and resilience are at the heart of our economic story. In 2024, we proudly celebrated significant strides in attracting new businesses while bolstering the growth of our established industries.

Infrastructure

Strategic investments in physical and digital infrastructure drive Charleston's competitive edge as a hub for innovation and commerce. The new I-26 interchange into Palmetto Commerce Park will enhance connectivity, reduce traffic congestion, and improve business access in one of the region's fastest-growing industrial areas. The county anticipates substantial completion early in 2026. Similarly, the new intermodal terminal in North Charleston represents a transformative investment in logistics, streamlining the movement of goods and strengthening Charleston's position as a global trade gateway. South Carolina Ports Authority is constructing the Navy Base Intermodal Facility (NBIF) on a 118-acre site on the former Charleston Naval Complex with an expected significant completion by July 2025.

Advancements in Manufacturing

Charleston-area companies invest in advanced manufacturing technologies to enhance productivity, innovation, and global competitiveness. These advancements include adopting automation, robotics, and Industry 4.0 solutions and integrating innovative technology into production processes. Manufacturers are leveraging data analytics and artificial intelligence to optimize operations, reduce waste, and improve supply chain efficiency. With a focus on sustainability, many companies are also adopting energy-efficient systems and exploring green manufacturing practices and material circularity. These innovations position Charleston as a leader in advanced manufacturing, attracting top talent and driving economic growth in the region.

2



3



4



1. SHL Medical

2. Palmetto Commerce
Parkway

3. Palmetto Commerce
Interchange

4. IronLink
Logistics

INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

5

CHARLESTON
TECH CENTER

7

5. Charleston Tech Center
6. Charles River Labs
7. SC Ports Authority

Life Science Innovation

The collaborative efforts of key players like MUSC, SCRA, SCbio, and the new Blue Sky Labs drive the future of the Life Sciences industry in the Charleston region. Charleston companies continue advancing cutting-edge research in areas like genomics, precision medicine, and pharmaceutical development while cultivating a pipeline of highly skilled healthcare and life sciences professionals. These organizations are jointly fostering a vibrant ecosystem, driving transformative medical advancements, attracting investment, and solidifying Charleston’s position as a life sciences innovation hub.

Logistics

Charleston is leading logistics innovation, leveraging our location and infrastructure to enhance global trade and supply chains. The Port of Charleston continues to invest in additional capacity, while the new intermodal terminal in North Charleston boosts multimodal connectivity, cutting transit times and costs. Local businesses are adopting innovative warehouse technologies like robotics and Internet of Things (IoT) to streamline inventory and delivery. These advancements strengthen logistics efficiency, attract global companies, and drive regional economic growth.

Defense

Charleston’s defense industry is growing across key sectors, including cybersecurity, communications, and maritime operations. The Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Atlantic drives innovation in cybersecurity, IT systems, and communications technology, supporting mission-critical operations for the U.S. military. Joint Base Charleston and the planned Coast Guard Superbase further enhance the region’s strategic importance, consolidating operations to streamline maritime security and logistics. These assets and strong federal and private-sector participation position Charleston as a vital hub for defense innovation and operations.

Tech Sector & Entrepreneurship

Charleston County is building a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem by fostering collaboration, providing resources, access to capital, and nurturing talent. Initiatives include co-working spaces such as Harbor Entrepreneur Center and networking events that connect startups with mentors, investors, and peers. Organizations like Charleston Digital Corridor and SC Launch support tech startups with funding, business guidance, and access to accelerator programs. Partnerships with local universities provide entrepreneurial training and talent pipelines, while public-private collaborations drive infrastructure improvements and attract innovative companies. These efforts create a supportive environment for startups and fuel growth across key industries. This growth is reflected in the tech sector, which currently comprises 12.1% of Charleston’s regional economy, having grown at an annual rate of 3.2% over the past 10 years, outpacing the national average of 2.1%.

6

nexus
BY CHARLES RIVER

INDUSTRY CELEBRATIONS

2

1. M.C. Dean, operator and maintainer of cyber-physical solutions for mission-critical facilities across the U.S., opened its doors with its newest 25,000-square-foot office.

2. Allegiance Flag Supply, producer of American flags, expanded operations with a new 24,000-square-foot building housed for manufacturing and distribution operations.

1

M.C. DEAN



3



4



3. Smithey Ironware Company, a cookware designer and manufacturer, expanded operations into its new headquarters.

4. Boeing, a global leader in aerospace, expanded with \$1 billion in infrastructure upgrades at its existing site and will create 500 new jobs over the next five years.

5. OhmIQ, a world leader in ohmic conduction technology development and licensing, expanded to its new global headquarters.

5



BUSINESS CONCIERGE PROGRAM

Our Business Concierge Team collaborates seamlessly with our network of allies to furnish resources and tools, enabling every company to achieve its maximum potential. We are here to facilitate business expansions, assist workforce development, and foster collaboration among suppliers and industries. CCED continues to work closely with public and private partners to attract investment, support workforce development, and ensure sustainable economic growth for the community. Our commitment is reflected in providing businesses with comprehensive 360° support, a service integral to operating successfully in Charleston County.



Workforce Development

Our team reinforced our commitment to a comprehensive workforce development strategy, focused on addressing current and future industry needs through strong systems and partnerships. Key collaborators include the Charleston County School District, Charleston County Library, higher education institutions, SC Works, readySC, and various state and community-based workforce organizations.

In 2024, we partnered with numerous allies to organize dozens of workforce events. Highlights included participating in a high school graduation job fair in May, attracting hundreds of students and employers. We actively supported rapid response events during business closures to connect displaced workers with new opportunities. We led two significant initiatives to grow the youth talent pipeline and connect educators and students with local careers. TriCounty STEMersion, a hands-on institute linking middle and high school teachers with industry leaders, hosted a record 110 educators this year, resulting in 180 lesson plans and 25 capstone projects for students. In partnership with SC Works Charleston, our September Workforce Development Month job fair brought together over 100 job seekers and 35 employers, with several job offers made on-site.

Business Expansion Facilitation

Our business concierge team has been instrumental in driving business expansions across our targeted industry sectors throughout Charleston County. We've seen consistent growth in our tech and defense sectors. Sustained investments in key areas, especially aerospace, life sciences, and advanced manufacturing, are expected. Charleston County actively supports these high-demand industries and is dedicated to nurturing an environment that promotes continuous development and achievement.



ABOVE:
Neal Brothers
with Lieutenant
Governor of
South Carolina

RIGHT:
SHL Medical



BUSINESS CONCIERGE PROGRAM

Networking & Collaboration

Economic Development is and always will be a team sport. With that in mind, we continue to focus on connecting and convening businesses, government agencies, community organizations, and educational institutions to achieve shared economic growth. We strive to be pivotal in creating a vibrant ecosystem for local businesses to thrive.

By championing a culture of cooperation through an unwavering commitment to networking beyond immediate community boundaries, the business development team empowers both large and small enterprises. This dynamic approach unlocks a vast reservoir of resources and expertise, ultimately driving the region towards collective success.

- Palmetto Commerce Parkway
- Navy Yard Breakfast
- Talent Pipeline Lunch & Learn
- MASC Maritime & Logistics Youth Expo
- Charleston Metro Chamber-Career Exploration Fair
- State of the Port
- State of the Airport
- Events at the Harbor Entrepreneur Center and Charleston Digital Corridor
- Lowcountry Manufacturers Council Dinner
- Supplier Development Events
- Job Fairs and Hiring Events



Entrepreneurial Assistance

A robust entrepreneurial network is essential to attracting new businesses and top talent and fueling economic growth for the entire community. To strengthen this vision, CCED has actively deepened our commitment to entrepreneurship support organizations such as the Harbor Entrepreneur Center, Lowcountry Local First, SCRA, and the Charleston Digital Corridor. Working closely with these key organizations drives collaboration and fosters a flourishing ecosystem emphasizing inclusivity and sustainability.

Together, we are cultivating an environment where innovation can thrive—one that supports entrepreneurs at every stage, from ideation to scaling. This collective effort lays the groundwork for a future of continued economic vitality, job creation, and long-term success for Charleston County.

Business Visitation

In 2024, we undertook a comprehensive outreach program, engaging in over 230 visits with prominent industry leaders and cultivating more than 250+ valuable relationships within our sectors. Our cornerstone initiative, the Business Concierge Program, remain central to our mission. Through our active visitation program, we diligently monitor the dynamic industrial landscape, ensuring our strategies stay agile and responsive to emerging trends. We are committed to continuous learning and innovation, seeking novel approaches to educate our employers and remain at the forefront of industry advancements.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

CCED proudly commemorated the International Economic Development Council’s 2024 Economic Development Week by celebrating innovation, collaboration, and community growth. This year’s event was a resounding success, marked by engaging activities and significant milestones.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Partnerships and Recognition:** A special partners’ lunch was held to recognize key stakeholders, and a municipality panel featuring North Charleston, Mount Pleasant, and Charleston highlighted local government collaboration. Charleston County Council officially proclaimed National Economic Development Week May 6-10, 2024, underscoring the county’s commitment to economic growth.
- **Business Announcement and Growth:** The expansion of TTS Studios, a \$845,000 investment creating 14 new jobs, was celebrated.
- **Industry Insights:** Steve Dykes, participated in the Economic Outlook panel at the North Charleston Business Expo, discussing strategies for regional economic growth.
- **Networking Opportunities:** The Navy Yard Business Meetup and a breakfast event for tech companies at the Charleston Digital Corridor facilitated valuable connections and provided resources to support Charleston’s thriving tech sector.

“
Economic development isn't just about numbers and policies; it's about improving people's lives, fostering prosperity, and creating opportunities for everyone to thrive. There's a place for you to contribute and make an impact.
”

Ashley Richardson
IEDC Member

CHARLESTON COUNTY SC
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS #ECONDEVHERO AND OTHERS AT [IEDCONLINE.ORG/EDW-SPOTLIGHTS](https://iedconline.org/edw-spotlights)

Ashley Richardson was recognized by the International Economic Development Council as a champion for economic growth.



CCED received two Gold Awards for Excellence from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) for the 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Economic Development Week initiatives. These awards recognize our dedication to driving economic growth and creating a thriving community. Our organization is honored to be among the best in the industry and grateful for the support of our partners and business ecosystem.



Celebrating 31 Years: CCED Visits 31 Businesses Across Charleston County

Sustainability principles, covering aspects related to ecological and social well-being in addition to community engagement, are crucial in shaping a company's long-term objectives and commitment to social responsibility. Functioning as a facilitator of genuine growth and development, Charleston County Economic Development is dedicated to elevating community success and promoting economic growth. Our office serves as a catalyst for local businesses and organizations, offering support and guidance to help them achieve their sustainability objectives.

SC Works Trident

The Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG) manages SC Works Trident, a comprehensive workforce development solution designed to meet the needs of businesses, job seekers, and training providers. Staffed by a dedicated and diverse team representing various agencies, SC Works Trident offers various services to help individuals and businesses achieve their employment goals.

SC Works Trident equips job seekers with the skills they need to secure or retain employment and assists employers in building and maintaining a qualified workforce. SC Works Trident is a one-stop-shop for industry-focused workforce solutions.

scworkstrident.org



Charleston County Public Library

In 2024, Charleston County Public Library (CCPL) demonstrated a deep commitment to community enrichment through various impactful programs and initiatives. They provided over 22,000 meals to children through their Kids Cafe and After School Snack program at high-need branches. Simultaneously, their Free and Fresh fridges, offering free fruits and vegetables in areas facing higher food insecurity, were accessed more than 20,000 times. At the Juvenile Detention Center, CCPL facilitated over 30 programs and checked out over 2,100 books to inmates, fostering literacy and learning in this underserved population. CCPL hosted over 4,700 programs and events at their branches, spanning early literacy, educational presentations, technology classes, and more. Their libraries facilitated more than 7,700 free notary appointments and saw over 364,000 uses of public computers. They also forged new partnerships, including efforts with the Charleston Center to address opioid addiction and the Hope Center to provide onsite services for the unhoused at their Main Library. Other highlights include introducing tools in their libraries to support neurodiverse patrons, collaborating with the Board of Elections on publishing a children's book about voting, hosting a national Holocaust exhibit, and achieving record-breaking participation in their Summer Reading program. CCPL continues to empower, educate, and uplift its community through these efforts.

ccpl.org



SOCIAL LEADERSHIP

What are companies in Charleston County doing to address core issues in line with their corporate responsibilities through the areas of environment, ethics, philanthropy, and the economy?

Gnosis Freight

Gnosis Freight is dedicated to making a positive impact on the Charleston community. Throughout the year, the company actively participates in volunteer programs with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Ronald McDonald House, and the Charleston Parks Conservatory. Gnosis Freight empowers employees to engage in community service during work hours by integrating these charitable activities into its corporate culture. These activities foster a strong sense of team unity and community spirit among employees, reinforcing the company's commitment to being responsible stewards of the Charleston community.

gnosisfreight.com



Booz Allen Hamilton

With a local workforce of 600+ employees, Booz Allen Hamilton's dedication to Charleston community service and partnerships is unwavering. In 2024, Booz Allen prioritized community impact by organizing blood drives, beach sweeps, charity donations, and food drives while partnering with organizations like Reading Partners and RJ's Mission.

boozallen.com



Bittermilk

Bittermilk, established in 2013, is a Charleston-based company renowned for its high-quality, handcrafted cocktail mixers. Beyond crafting exceptional beverages, Bittermilk is deeply committed to community engagement and environmental responsibility. In 2024, the company's owners volunteered over 100 hours to local initiatives, including food drives, habitat restoration, and youth mentorship programs. Additionally, they donated \$15,000 to support local non-profits focused on children, low-income families, and global clean water initiatives. To minimize its environmental impact, Bittermilk has implemented robust recycling and waste reduction programs, achieving an 85% recycling rate for production waste. The company has also launched a company-wide initiative to reduce its carbon footprint by reusing packaging materials. Bittermilk's dedication to quality, community, and sustainability positions it as a shining example of a business that positively impacts its customers and the environment.

bittermilk.com



Keel

Keel is an innovative defense manufacturing leader formed through the merger of Pegasus Steel (South Carolina), Metal Trades (South Carolina), and Merrill Technologies Group (Michigan). Beyond delivering unmatched quality in fabrication, machining, and integration to the U.S. Navy, the broader Defense Industrial Base supply chain, and industrial customers, Keel is committed to providing rewarding career opportunities in a safe and supportive environment while operating ethically, sustainably, and with integrity. Keel is also home to the Merrill Institute (Alma, MI), a respected weld training center with a 97% placement rate, with plans to establish another institute in Ladson, SC. In addition to philanthropic efforts with the YMCA, My Sister's House, the Angel Tree program, and other worthy causes, Keel collaborates with Charleston/Berkeley County schools for internal/external job fairs, Career & Technical Education programs, and more. Keel continues to grow, and its success significantly impacts local economies.

keelusa.com



CHARLESTON COUNTY INDUSTRY IMPACT AWARDS

Acknowledging the positive influence of our existing industry remains integral to solidifying Charleston County’s position as a preferred destination with a conducive business environment. The companies nominated in 2024 showcased noteworthy achievements, encompassing capital investment, job creation, community engagement, innovation, human resource support, sales growth, and environmental stewardship. We take pride in all the nominations and congratulate the four selected companies in their respective categories.

■ SMALL (1-50 EMPLOYEES)



AGRU America is a manufacturer of premium geosynthetic liners and thermoplastic piping solutions. The Charleston Plant, a small but mighty operation, punches above its weight, producing some of the world’s largest HDPE pipes. These vital products are shipped globally to modernize critical infrastructure and provide millions of sustainable water access. Recent projects include a water transmission line for a New Mexico Indian Reservation, a water restoration project in Virginia, and a life-saving pipeline in New Orleans. This dedicated team, led by Mike Johnson, embodies the spirit of blue-collar excellence. Each member is a multi-skilled operator, adept in various roles from forklift operation to welding and machining. Through hard work, dedication, and strong leadership, the Charleston team consistently delivers impeccable products. While often overlooked, manufacturing is crucial and provides essential infrastructure like clean water access. This team exemplifies the best of American manufacturing, deserving recognition for their significant contributions.

agruamerica.com

■ MEDIUM (51-150 EMPLOYEES)



LANXESS Charleston is a global leader in the production of specialty chemicals, providing cutting-edge solutions across various industries, including agriculture, automotive, electronics, and pharmaceuticals. As part of the fabric of the Charleston Community, LANXESS has partnered with Military Magnet Academy (MMA) to enhance community engagement and support the school’s STEM education initiatives. As one of the few area schools without a corporate sponsor and a significant portion of students qualifying for Federal Aid, MMA benefits greatly from LANXESS’s support. The company’s commitment extends beyond financial contributions as it also actively participates in the MMA “Everyday STEM” Summer Camp, engaging with students in the classroom and providing hands-on STEM activities. By supporting the school’s two award-winning Robotics teams, which have competed nationally, LANXESS helps foster critical thinking skills, technology utilization, and a deeper understanding of STEM’s real-world applications.

lanxess.com

■ LARGE (151 AND GREATER EMPLOYEES)



SHL Medical, a world-leading provider of drug delivery solutions, is committed to sustainability, innovation, and community engagement. The company has set ambitious goals to reduce its carbon footprint. It has been recognized by the Science Based Targets initiative for its near-term emissions reduction targets, including a 42% reduction in absolute Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and a 51.6% reduction in Scope 3 emissions per million units sold. Beyond environmental sustainability, SHL Medical is dedicated to workforce development and community outreach. The company has invested \$92 million in its Charleston facility, creating 248 jobs, and aiming to reach 600 employees upon full site buildout. Additionally, SHL Medical actively participates in community initiatives, such as donating to local charities and supporting educational programs. By prioritizing sustainability, innovation, and community engagement, SHL Medical is positively impacting the environment and society.

shl-medical.com

■ COMMUNITY IMPACT



Allegiance Flag Supply proudly produces American flags while fostering patriotism and supporting the Charleston community. The company partners with organizations like the Boot Campaign, Folds of Honor, and Tunnel to Towers to raise funds and provide flags for military and first responder families. Their unwavering dedication honors those who have served.

Allegiance also impacts military families through local sports, supporting the “Military Family of the Game” initiative at Charleston Riverdogs and South Carolina Stingrays games.

In late 2025, Allegiance will launch an employment pipeline connecting the Tunnel to Towers Veteran Village with its North Charleston facility, offering nearby job opportunities to Veterans transitioning from homelessness. Committed to growth and community service, Allegiance continues to blend patriotism with meaningful action.

showallegiance.com

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AMBASSADOR

*Recognized for their leadership and significant contributions
that promote economic growth in our community*

Elias Deeb

CEO of CMMC Navy Yard Industrial Campus

Elias Deeb is the CEO of CMMC Navy Yard Industrial Campus, a historic waterfront facility home to over 40 tenants specializing in maritime, manufacturing, creative, and industrial industries. With over 20 years of experience in real estate development and industrial operations, Elias specializes in transforming properties into thriving ecosystems that honor their past while driving economic growth. An alumnus of Florida State University and The Citadel Graduate College, Elias combines strategic vision with a deep commitment to community and responsible stewardship. Under his leadership, the Navy Yard Industrial Campus has become a beacon for entrepreneurship and collaboration, attracting forward-thinking businesses while preserving the campus' rich heritage. Elias is passionate about fostering partnerships that create lasting impact, positioning the Navy Yard Industrial Campus as a national model for adaptive reuse and sustainable innovation. His leadership continues to shape the campus as a cornerstone of Charleston's economic revitalization and a driver of regional progress.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Recognized honor bestowed upon individuals who have demonstrated exceptional and
sustained contributions to their community and field over the course of their entire career*

J. Steven Dykes

Executive Director of Charleston County Economic Development

J. Steven Dykes has directed the Charleston County Economic Development Department since its inception in 1993, driving transformative economic growth over the past 32 years. Under his leadership, Charleston County has secured over \$8 billion in capital investment and created more than 41,000 jobs through strategic recruitment, retention, and expansion efforts. Dykes has played a pivotal role in attracting blue-chip companies like Boeing, Mercedes-Benz Vans, Cummins, Ingevity, and T-Mobile. His efforts include facilitating Boeing's 787 Final Assembly and Delivery Facility and the Sprinter Vans manufacturing plant, two of South Carolina's most significant economic achievements.

A Charleston native, Dykes holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the College of Charleston, a Master's in Public Administration from the University of South Carolina/College of Charleston program, and is a graduate of The Advanced Economic Development Leadership Program. A South Carolina Certified Economic Developer since 2008, he received the Governor's Order of the Palmetto in 2023 for his distinguished career in public service.





CCED ECOSYSTEM

Economic Development is a team sport and we celebrate our accomplishments with our many partners. With a dedicated focus on fostering strong partnerships and connections within the business community, Charleston County Economic Development plays a pivotal part in creating a vibrant ecosystem for local businesses to thrive.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM



Steve Dykes
Executive Director



Ashley Richardson
Deputy Director



Scott Kirby
Finance &
Technology Manager



Jay Kramer
Project Manager,
Existing Industry



Gene Borzendowski
Project Manager,
Recruitment



Dayton Ward
Project Coordinator



Lauren Ellis
Marketing Manager



Kip Watson
Director,
Business Research



Tori Simmons
Operations Coordinator





CHARLESTON
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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