

Advance

Florence County Progress Newsletter

Issue 22

November 2019

New Members

Clarios, Florence

Gold Pacesetter (upgrade)



Clarios, formerly Johnson Controls Power Solutions, is a world leader in advanced energy storage solutions. It partners with customers to meet increasing market demand for smarter applications, on a global scale. The company's 16,000 employees develop, manufacture and distribute a portfolio of evolving battery technologies for virtually every type of vehicle: technologies that deliver uniquely sustainable, next-generation performance and bring reliability, safety and comfort to everyday lives. Clarios adds value at every link in the supply chain, contributing to the progress of the communities it serves and the planet we all share.

Continuum, Lake City

Pacesetter

The Continuum is a regional center for education and training in innovative and technical skills and workforce development, created through collaboration among The Darla Moore Foundation, Florence-Darlington Technical College and Francis Marion University. The mission is to provide opportunities for students through training and certifications in workforce development skills, courses that lead to two- and four-year degrees, dual credit courses for high school students and programs for K-12 students in science and innovation. The Continuum also provides business incubator space and community/event space in a state-of-the-art facility.

For more information, visit the website at www.thelccontinuum.org or contact Jeanette Altman at 843-374-4200 or jaltman@thelccontinuum.org.



PO Box 100549, Florence, SC 29502 | 843-676-8796
www.florencecoprogress.com

Delta Building Systems, Florence
Pacesetter



Delta Building Systems is one of the Pee Dee's premier unlimited license general contractors with a commitment to doing quality work for customers. So, whether you're a construction manager, real estate developer, architect or business owner, Delta Building Systems is dedicated to meeting your needs with "can-do" enthusiasm.

For more information, contact Keith Hill at 843-413-1712 or khill@deltabuildingsystemsinc.com.

Baker Office Solutions, Florence

Baker Office Solutions, established in 1948, is a family-owned office solution provider that prides itself on offering the best product, service and software solutions. Baker Office Solutions provides equipment, furniture, toner, blinds, shades and more.

For more information, visit the website at www.bakerofficesolutions.com or contact Tammy Baker at 843-662-5622 or tammy@bakerofficesolutions.com.

Helping You Project a Better Image!!!



Young Plantations, Florence



The Young Plantations legacy dates back to the 1920s, when TB Young began growing in-shell pecans in the heart of the Carolinas. Decades later, the company began selling pecans directly to consumers, and Young Plantations was born.

The flagship store, like the story, is rooted right here in Florence. It offers the biggest, best gourmet pecans in more than sixteen delicious flavors. The onsite bakery sells pies, bread, cinnamon rolls, cornbread, muffins, cookies, pralines, bars and more. Every nut, gourmet snack and baked good is available to sample, and the Young Plantation store has become a destination in its own right.

For more information or to place an order, visit the website at www.youngplantations.com or visit the store at 2005 Babar Ln, Florence, SC 29501.

PO Box 100549, Florence, SC 29502 | 843-676-8796
www.florencecoprogress.com

Helping Florence Work informs school counselors about technical education, manufacturing jobs

Several Florence One Schools professional school counselors learned about technical education during the first Helping Florence Work program.

Helping Florence Work is a program created by Mike Reichenbach to inform professional school counselors of opportunities available to students outside of a four-year degree.

During the program, 13 new counselors in Florence One toured Florence-Darlington Technical College. Counselors toured several departments, among them welding, HVAC, automotive, and machine tool and industrial maintenance.

“You can read all you want about welding and automotive and HVAC and industrial maintenance in a catalog or pamphlet, but for them to see the students working hands-on with some of the cool technology that we have on campus, it really makes a difference so they can picture the students that they counsel in the classroom,” said Lauren Dorton, executive director of the Educational Foundation.

Dorton said the college is always working with school districts in Florence to educate them on the job opportunities in the area and low cost of attendance at the college.

“There is really a benefit from the school counselors to see that, and it helps show people what we’re offering,” Dorton said. “We are always pushing for people to see us as a high-quality educational experience.”

For the second half of the day, counselors toured GE Healthcare, Honda of South Carolina and Otis Elevators.

At Honda of South Carolina, counselors learned about different career options and the technology used at the company, according to Michele Pridgen, community and government relations manager at Honda of South Carolina.

“I definitely think it will help connect some dots,” Pridgen said. “I think it is a wonderful program, and I’m looking forward to continuing to work with Mike and the others who are involved because I think there’s a great misunderstanding between the manufacturing world today and the former image.”

Pridgen said the Helping Florence Work program is a win-win for everyone involved.

“It’s important because not every child will have the ability to go off to college, be it a two-year or four-year degree,” Pridgen said. “We need to make sure they understand they can build viable careers within the industry that’s right here in their area.”



Deanne Frye, who works at West Florence, was one of the 13 counselors who took part in Helping Florence Work.

Frye said she has grown up in Hartsville and toured some plants, such as Sonoco, but never the three she saw during the program.

"It was an eye-opening experience because we have so many opportunities as far as manufacturing for our kids and in our area," Frye said.

Frye said she would like to see field trips to allow students to learn more about the manufacturing field first hand.

"I feel like we really need to expose the kids to it early on so they can make a better decision about their future," Frye said.

Reichenbach said he created the initiative as his South Carolina Liberty Fellowship project, which is a fellowship focused on bettering some portion of the individual's community or state.

"I would say it was a tremendous success," Reichenbach said. "By all accounts the different stakeholders, the 13 new professional school counselors, the staff of Florence-Darlington Tech and the representatives from all three companies thought it was a very, very good day and time well spent."

In the future, Reichenbach said, he is planning to extend the project to other school districts across the Pee Dee.

Obtained from the Morning News and written by Lauren Owens

Hope Jones earns economic development certificate

Hope Jones, executive assistant at Florence County Economic Development Partnership, completed the 2019 South Carolina Economic Development Institute on November 8.

The South Carolina Economic Development Institute (The Institute), formerly known as The South Carolina Economic Development School (SCEDS), offers a highly interactive curriculum to participants, affording them a greater "hands-on" economic development learning experience. The Institute, a 30-year partnership between the South Carolina Department of Commerce and the South Carolina Economic Developers' Association, has graduated more than 1,315 participants since its inception.

The Institute serves to educate those who support and participate in economic development activities in their communities while providing unique and innovative development approaches for implementation in local communities. The Institute consists of four two-day sessions held in different locations around the state.



From left: Andrena Powell-Baker, SCCED President; Hope Jones, Florence County; Amy Graham, S&ME; Maceo Nance, SCEDA

Member News

Clarios Plant Manager: Jamie Haselden

Please welcome Jamie Haselden as Plant Manager for the Florence, S.C. Recycling Center.

In March 2018, Jamie joined the Recycling Center as Supply Chain Manager and has been Acting Plant Manager for the past three months.

Prior to joining Clarios, he was Plant Manager with Georgia Pacific in Darlington, S.C. and before that held a number of operations management roles with Mohawk Industries, culminating as Site Manager for their Bennettsville, S.C. facility.

He has a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering from Clemson University and Masters of Business Administration from Francis Marion.

Jamie grew up in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina and spent much of his young life working on the farm. His professional career in South Carolina has been with the people he grew up with, helping them make their lives better.



Ruiz Foods

Ruiz Foods donates blankets to Pee Dee Coalition



The Pee Dee Coalition will be able to help comfort families during a time of crisis with the donation of 50 no-sew blankets from Ruiz Food Team members as part of the Ruiz Cares program.

The blankets will be divided between the Pee Dee Coalition's Durant Children's Center and its Emergency Safe Shelter.

"Our team members really came together to make sure this project would be a success," said Krista Meekins of Ruiz Foods Florence. "This is the second time this year we have worked with a local organization to help provide families some comfort during their time of need."

Each child who enters the shelter will keep the blanket on leaving, said Tonya Davis, a child advocate with the shelter.

"It's a safety net sometimes for them. They come in broken, and when they leave, they have something to remember us by," Davis said. "They can keep it and carry it with them forever."

About 40 Ruiz Foods Team members donated 69 hours to make the 50 blankets. Six of the blankets were completed by a Ruiz Florence supplier, Grain Craft, who saw the project being advertised in the hallway during a visit.

Including this donation, Florence Ruiz Foods Team members have donated a total of 85 blankets in 2019.

Ruiz sales team steps up for Help 4 Kids

Members of the national account sales team from Ruiz Foods took time out of their annual meeting on Nov. 12 to pack lunch bags for children through Help 4 Kids Florence.

Team members cheered each other on as they pressed on at a good clip to fill pallets with brown-bag meals. They were scheduled spend at least two hours on the endeavor.

“Our sales meetings are a way for the National Accounts Team to meet our Florence Ruiz Foods Team Members. Volunteering while we are there is a way of getting to know the Florence community and learn about the impact these organizations make for their community members,” said Kevin Murphy, vice president of national accounts.

In addition to packing bags, the company donated \$2,500 to the organization.

Help 4 Kids Florence is a volunteer organization that works to make sure children do not go hungry.

The organization’s backpack program makes almost 3,000 food packs per week.

Ruiz Foods Team Members have volunteered with Help 4 Kids Florence in the past by hosting food drives and with general donations.



“Help 4 Kids Florence would like to thank Ruiz Foods for their years of support. Their generosity as provided bags of much needed food for the hungry children in Florence County. They truly are a company that cares for our community,” said Help 4 Kids Florence Vice President Allie Walker.

Ruiz Foods articles obtained from the Morning News and written by Matthew Robertson

HopeHealth receives funding to expand dental services in local schools

A new planning grant to HopeHealth aims to expand dental care in rural and underserved schools in Clarendon, Florence and Williamsburg Counties. HopeHealth is one of 12 organizations to receive \$65,000 in funding from the BlueCross and BlueShield of North Carolina Foundation and the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation. HopeHealth will then be eligible to apply for two-year implementation grants from The Duke Endowment next spring.

More than 4.1 million Carolinians, including many children, live in designated dental professional shortage areas. School-based programs provide care to children who might not otherwise have access to oral health professionals. These programs eliminate other barriers, such as transportation issues and time away from school and work for appointments.

PO Box 100549, Florence, SC 29502 | 843-676-8796
www.florencecoprogress.com

School-aged children are particularly affected by poor oral health, and tooth decay is the most common chronic disease among children. Oral health problems and pain affect performance at school and are the top reason for school absences in low-resourced communities. Research finds that dental pain has a similar, if not greater, impact on children's quality of life than acute asthma. Poor oral health in children is associated with increased shyness, feelings of worthlessness, unhappiness and reduced friendliness.

"Dental disease is largely preventable when consistent measures are taken to ensure that children have access to oral health care," said Renee Anderson, director of practice performance and dental services. "We know that programs based in schools are effective but have not been widely replicated in our region. Bringing these programs to Clarendon, Florence and Williamsburg counties will provide students with needed dental care in safe, convenient and accessible locations."

The grant enables HopeHealth to plan school-based oral health programs that prioritize preventive services (such as regular cleanings) and address certain restorative treatments (including fillings) for school-aged children and will begin in Clarendon County, said Anderson. Over six months, grantees will work with technical assistance providers to understand the practice model, assess organizational capacity, and develop implementation plans. Other grantees include health departments, safety-net providers, and non-profit organizations.

MUSC Health Florence and Marion Medical Centers recognized for patient safety record

MUSC Health Florence and Marion Medical Centers have earned a combined 17 South Carolina "Certified Zero Harm Awards" from the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA). These awards are in recognition of the outstanding performance for patient safety and prevention of hospital-acquired infections.

MUSC Health Florence Medical Center is the only hospital in the state to be recognized with 12 awards. MUSC Health Marion Medical Center received 5 awards.

"We are thrilled to recognize both of these hospitals in preventing harm to the patients we serve," MUSC Health Florence and Marion Medical Center chief executive officer Vance Reynolds said. "Our care team members work hard to ensure every patient is treated safely and these awards represent the success of their efforts."

The Certified Zero Harm Awards is a unique statewide program thanks to SCHA's collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC). For each award, hospitals must experience no preventable hospital-acquired infections of a specific nature over an extended period of time, and data must be independently verified by DHEC. This unique third-party verification process with the state agency provides exceptional legitimacy to these patient safety awards and is a testament to the spirit of statewide collaboration that has driven so many patient safety efforts, from the adoption of surgical safety checklists in Safe Surgery 2015 to current efforts like the Birth Outcomes Initiative and Surgical Quality Collaborative.

MUSC Health Florence Medical Center sustained 6 zero bloodstream infection awards for: 12 and 18 months in the Medical Intensive Care Unit; 18 and 36 months in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit; and 12 and 30 months in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit. The other six awards are for no surgical site infections (SSI): 76 months for knee replacement; 54 months for hip replacement; 2 awards for 18 months abdominal hysterectomy; and 2 awards for 12 months colon.

Since the Zero Harm program started MUSC Health Florence Medical Center has been awarded 36 Certified Zero Harm awards.

MUSC Health Marion Medical Center was recognized with a 72 months zero bloodstream infection award; 18 months Clostridium difficile (C. diff) award; and an award for 42 months with no Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections. For SSI, the hospital received 30 months abdominal hysterectomy and 24 months knee awards.

Upcoming Events

Florence County Progress Holiday Networking Event

Tuesday, December 10

Seminar Brewing

5:30 – 7:30 PM

Florence County Progress Annual Membership Luncheon

Tuesday, January 28

SiMT

11:30 AM – 1 PM

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Bruce Yandle



Dr. Bruce Yandle writes and speaks on the economy and economic issues. Dean Emeritus of Clemson University's College of Business & Behavioral Science where he taught economics for 31 years, he is now distinguished adjunct fellow with George Mason University's Mercatus Center. While serving as Alumni Distinguished Professor of Economics at Clemson, he taught in graduate programs in France, Italy, Germany and the Czech Republic. He is author/editor of 17 books, including *Bootleggers and Baptists: How Economic Forces and Moral Persuasion Interact to Shape Regulatory Politics*, is a contributor to *The Hill*, *USA Today*, *Investors' Business Daily* and the *Washington Examiner* and is author of *The Economic Situation*, a quarterly newsletter distributed by George Mason University. He has been



recognized for his leadership in promoting the free market system by Washington's Competitive Enterprise Institute and the Association of Private Enterprise Education.

Dr. Yandle served in Washington on two occasions, first as a senior economist on the White House staff during the Ford and Carter Administrations and later as Executive Director of the Federal Trade Commission in the Reagan Administration. Prior to entering a career in university teaching, he was in the industrial machinery business for 15 years. Bruce and his wife, Dot, live in Clemson, just across from the train station.

MUSC Health Florence Medical Center

Healthy Lung Walk/Climb

Saturday, December 7

Front lawn of MUSC Health Florence Medical Center

Registration: 8:30 AM

Event begins: 9 AM

MUSC Health Florence Medical Center wants people to put on their walking shoes for a good cause and come out to the Healthy Lung Walk/Climb. The event will be Saturday, December 7 on the front lawn of MUSC Health Florence Medical Center, 805 Pamplico Highway in Florence. Registration opens at 8:30am. The walk/climb begins at 9:00am.

Register at <http://bit.ly/walkclimb2019> or call 843-674-2615. Your registration fee includes a free t-shirt. Proceeds to benefit the American Lung Association.