

Advance

Florence County Progress Newsletter

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NARENCO establishing operations in Florence County

NARENCO, a leading renewable energy independent power producer, announced plans to establish operations in Florence County. The company is investing \$20 million into the project.



Founded in 2009, NARENCO is one of the largest solar developers in North America. The company is focused on the development, engineering, procurement, construction and operation of utility-scale and commercial solar installations.

Located along Sardis Highway in Timmonsville, NARENCO's new operation will produce up to 16 megawatts of alternating current (AC) of renewable solar energy. One megawatt AC of solar energy is enough to provide clean energy to approximately 200 South Carolina homes.

The first phase of projects is expected to be operational by 2021. For more information on NARENCO, visit www.narenco.com.

QUOTES

"It has been an honor to partner with Florence County on these projects. We are thrilled at the opportunity to invest in the Florence community and to provide clean power to our neighbors. We look forward to seeing these projects come to fruition." -**NARENCO President of Development Jesse Montgomery**

"South Carolina's renewable energy sector continues to grow, and we're excited about today's announcement of NARENCO's new \$20 million project in Florence County. This is a huge win for the Florence community and the state of South Carolina." -**Gov. Henry McMaster**

“Investments like this one continue to grow South Carolina’s reputation as a top business destination for industries of all types. We celebrate NARENCO’s decision to invest in Florence County and look forward to their continued success.” **-Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt**

“Sunny South Carolina is naturally suited for the solar energy industry, and we are happy to take part in sustainable renewable energy initiatives. The future is bright for South Carolina.” **-Senator Hugh K. Leatherman**

“We are always excited when we land projects, but we are especially excited when those projects involve more rural areas of Florence County. In this case, most of NARENCO’s solar farm development will take place in the Timmonsville/Sardis area. NARENCO’s presence in Florence County will have a positive impact on the community.” **-Florence County Council Chairman Willard Dorriety Jr.**

“Florence County Economic Development Partnership always keeps the future of the county in mind and strives to pave the way for success. Renewable solar energy is part of that future, and we are proud to welcome NARENCO, a national renewable energy corporation, to help us get there.” **-Florence County Economic Development Partnership Chairman Joe W. “Rocky” Pearce**

FIVE FAST FACTS

- NARENCO is **establishing operations in Florence County.**
- **The company is investing \$20 million into the project.**
- NARENCO is **a leading renewable energy independent power producer.**
- **The company is located along Sardis Highway in Timmonsville, S.C.**
- For more information on NARENCO, visit www.narenco.com.

Member News

South Carolina Federal named one of the Best Places to Work in South Carolina

South Carolina Federal Credit Union was recently named one of the Best Places to Work in South Carolina. This survey-and-awards program, created by SC Biz News, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and Best Companies Group, was designed to identify, recognize and honor the best employers in South Carolina.

The 2020 list consists of 74 companies that benefit the state’s economy, workforce and business community. To be considered, companies were required to complete a two-part survey process. The first part evaluated workplace policies,



practices, philosophy and demographics. The second part consisted of an employee survey to measure the employee experience.

"Over the past few months, it's become clear that our place of work isn't a specific office or building. Instead, it's a community. It's the vision and values we share and the passion we bring to serving our members," said Leslie Norris, senior vice president of human resources at South Carolina Federal. "Though our idea of 'place' is quite different today than it was this time last year, we're just as proud to be named a Best Place to Work."

South Carolina Federal is currently hiring. If you'd like to work for a company that's continually named a Best Place to Work, visit scfederal.org/careers to browse current opportunities.

For more information on the Best Places to Work in South Carolina program, visit www.BestPlacesToWorkSC.com.



Florence County Library reopening with limited hours

As of Sept. 21, all branches of the Florence County Library System are welcoming the public back to its facilities. All locations will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Some services will be limited in order to promote the safety of library staff and the public. Temperature checks, face masks covering nose and mouth and social distancing will be required to enter and use library facilities. There will be a limit of 10 items checked out per cardholder present, and meeting and study rooms will remain closed. Donated books and other materials will not be accepted at this time. Wi-Fi, public computers and printing are available.

The library will continue to expand services and operating hours as it becomes possible to do so safely. Updates will be posted to the library website, social media and local media outlets.

For more information, please call (843) 662-8424.



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McLeod Health opens new physician office building in South Florence

McLeod Health is pleased to announce the opening of a new McLeod Physician Associates office location and physician practice, McLeod Family Medicine South.

Located at 611 Second Loop Road in Florence, McLeod Family Medicine South is a new medical home for well-known McLeod physicians Dr. Heather Shelton and Dr. Stephanie Strickland. The physicians are joined by Physician Assistant Morgan Armstrong in providing family medicine and primary care in a conveniently accessible, patient-centered location.

Nestled on more than four acres in the south side of Florence, this newly constructed space has generous parking, with more than 60 spaces, and a covered canopy entrance to provide easy and safe access for patients of all ages, from infants to adults. The more than 7,500 square-foot building houses 15 patient care rooms, on-site lab and specimen collections and a spacious check-in and subdivided family waiting area to allow for social distance for appointments.

McLeod Family Medicine South welcomes existing patients of Dr. Shelton and Dr. Strickland, and new patient appointments are available. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 843-777-9460.

MUSC Health Florence Division names third-quarter DAISY honorees

Mya Simmons, a registered nurse (RN) on the 7th floor at MUSC Health Florence Medical Center, and Benedicte Roberts, a registered nurse (RN) on the Medical Surgical Unit at MUSC Health Marion Medical Center, were named the third-quarter DAISY Award recipients of 2020.

The DAISY award is given to nurses whose job performance exemplifies the mission, vision and values of MUSC Health. Recipients must also keep a consistent focus on meeting patient-family goals, collaborating with the healthcare team to meet patients' needs, using critical thinking to deliver extraordinary patient care, and demonstrating a caring attitude, as well as professionalism, in the workplace during all situations.

Mya was nominated by one of her co-workers. "Mya is an absolute joy! I am a fellow employee whose job description often requires making in-patient rounds with the cardiology team. I can say firsthand how hard-working and diligent Mya is at her job. Any time there is a physician rounding in her rooms, she stops what she's doing to accompany them with the patient's care. Mya provides feedback, communication, results, suggestions and anything else the provider might need. She is truly the link between her patients and providers that helps with demonstrating the best patient care.

"My absolute favorite part about working with Mya is her positive attitude. She is always smiling, happy and helpful. I find this to be extremely beneficial for patients during an often scary time. In a way, Mya is a daisy – bright, colorful, and thriving. She is completely focused at work, never allowing at-home or worldly problems to interfere. Mya makes the patients No. 1 and therefore that makes her a No. 1 candidate for the DAISY Award!"

Benedicte was nominated by a patient. “Bennie Roberts should receive the DAISY Award. She was wonderful when she took care of me, always having a beautiful smile and willing to help. Bennie is very compassionate and has a sweet, caring personality. Even when the entire ward is full, she manages herself and her duties with such composure that makes the demand of her job seem like second nature. So, I simply want to say “thank you” to this nurse. I know she would say she was just doing her job, but by being herself, working in sync with the other nurses, during such a trying time on my way to recovery, she has my eternal gratitude.”

The DAISY Foundation is a not-for-profit organization established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes by members of his family. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little-known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. (DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System.) The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families. Nurses may be nominated by patients, families and colleagues. Recipients of the DAISY award are chosen quarterly by the DAISY committees at MUSC Health Florence Medical Center and MUSC Health Marion Medical Center.



Mya Simmons



Benedicte Roberts

HopeHealth school-based clinic open for FSD3

The HopeHealth school-based clinic at Lake City High School reopened Sept. 1.

HopeHealth partners with Florence County School District 3 to provide school-based health services to students and staff at Lake City High School, including basic primary care, well visits, screenings, immunizations, referrals for additional services and follow up care as needed.

Located in the Health Connections building on the Lake City High School campus, services are available from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. every Monday and Thursday beginning Sept. 10.

To schedule an appointment, call 843-432-2943.

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Upcoming Events

Francis Marion University: Cultural Conversations

Friday, Oct. 9; Friday, Nov. 6; Thursday, Feb. 4; Thursday, March 11

Virtual Event Series

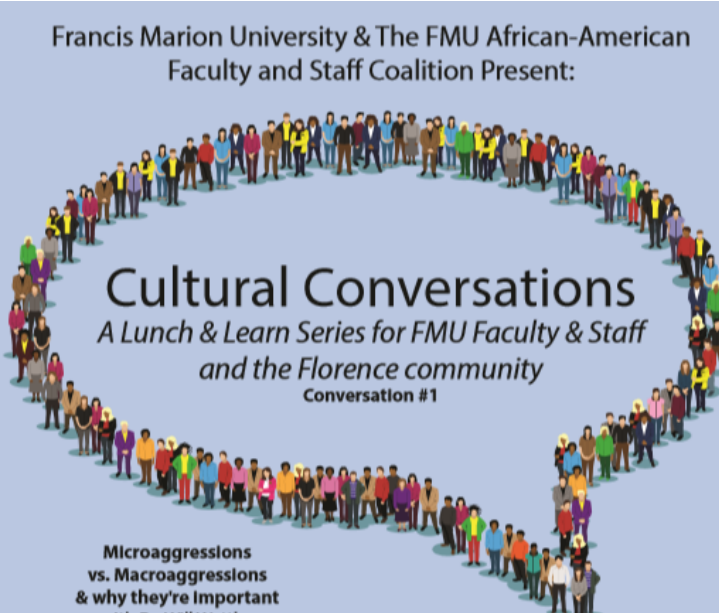
Noon-1:30 PM

Registration link: <https://www.fmarion.edu/aafsc/>

Francis Marion University is partnering with the African-American Faculty and Staff Coalition to embark on a four part “Cultural Conversations” series. The goal of this program is to increase awareness and openness in discussing race and culture, not only within the FMU community but the Florence community as a whole.

A virtual option is available for community members who would like to attend. Each conversation will consist of a 45 minute presentation followed by 15-20 minutes for questions. Each session will be led by a Psychology or Sociology professor well-trained for pertinent race and culture topics.

A link for each of the YouTube livestreams you register for will be emailed to you either the day before or the day of the event.



Francis Marion University & The FMU African-American Faculty and Staff Coalition Present:

Cultural Conversations

A Lunch & Learn Series for FMU Faculty & Staff and the Florence community

Conversation #1

Microaggressions vs. Macroaggressions & why they're Important
with Dr. Will Wattles
Friday, October 9th, 2020

Conversation #2
Changes in African American race relations in Florence over-time and how to create an inclusive environment for People of Color
with Dr. Joe Heyward, Dr. Erica James and Dr. Antonio Cooper
Friday, November 6th, 2020

Conversation #3
Native American Racial Injustices, Issues and SES Disparities
with Mrs. Jamee Hunt Freeman & Dr. Erica James
Thursday, February 4th, 2021

Conversation #4
Racial Issues and Injustices facing the Hispanic & Asian-American communities and how we can work to be inclusive
with Dr. Todd Couch
Thursday, March 11th, 2021

FMU Performing Arts Center in Downtown Florence
Lunch will be served from 11:15am- Noon | Conversations are from Noon to 1:30pm
Each conversation will be 45 minutes for the presentation with 15-20 minutes reserved for a Q&A portion.
In an effort to maintain social distancing, each lunch & learn will be limited to 40 in-person attendees.

FMU is pleased to offer participants an opportunity to receive Continuing Education credits.
Participants will receive 1.5 CEU's for each event and those who attend all four events will receive 6 CEU's.

Register today at [fmarion.edu/aafsc](https://www.fmarion.edu/aafsc/)