



Press Release

Manufacturers Caring for Pickens County August 29, 2014

The Manufacturers Caring for Pickens County (MCPC) met on August 13th, and had a special guest, John Lummus, President and CEO of the Upstate Alliance. The Upstate Alliance is the key economic development engine in the upstate.

Lummus explained that the Upstate SC Alliance is a public-private partnership founded in 2000. Its mission is to bring new businesses to the 10-county Upstate region. The capital investment from these new businesses increase local tax bases and increase employment opportunities for local citizens.

"By marketing the Upstate as one region with 1.4 million people rather than 10 separate counties, we gain more exposure and impact with site selectors, and maximize our local investments in economic development programs by coordinating our business development outreach", said Lummus.

He also said that this approach creates more opportunities for "wins" for everyone because we are selling our area based on how it really operates.

A few recent examples of higher profile deals in which the Alliance has assisted include:

- * Colgate Palmolive (2013)
Initial investment \$196 million, 300 jobs, Greenwood Co.
- * McLaughlin Body Co. (2013)
Initial investment \$22.5 million, 250 jobs, Anderson Co.
- * Esurance (2014)
Initial investment \$2.1 million, 450 jobs, Greenville Co.

In all the above cases the Upstate SC Alliance was either the first point of contact or participated in providing research that helped land the project. Lummus concluded with questions from the group, then discussed how MCPC can work more closely with the Upstate Alliance on new opportunities and events.

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The MCPC group meets monthly and tries to vary the guest speakers among the social, educational, and economic development lines. Past speakers have included Mike Batchelor, CEO of Baptist Easley Hospital, Kris Frady of the Clemson University Center for Workforce Development, and local elected officials.

The goals of MCPC are to promote economic development through educational improvements, social improvements and quality of life improvements

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For more info see: <http://manufacturerscaringforpickens.com/index.html>

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