

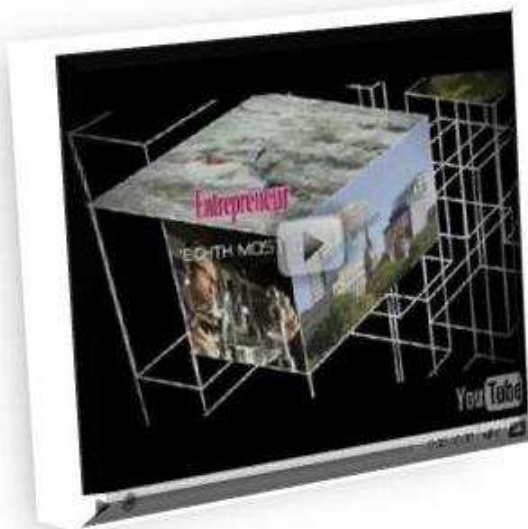
Please take a moment to read the latest news from Columbia SC's knowledge economy.

For continuous updates, check out www.engenuitysc.com

In This Month's Edition:

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Watch the EngenuitySC Video on YouTube



Find out what Columbia's knowledge economy is all about. Check out the EngenuitySC video on [YouTube](#).

CoEE Bringing the World's Top Scientific Talent to South Carolina

Calling All Entrepreneurs - Sign Up for FastTrac NewVenture January 13th

Stop dreaming
Start doing



Are you ready to start your business? FastTracSC, which helps foster the creation of new sustainable businesses through training programs, is offering FastTrac NewVenture classes starting January 13th at Midlands Technical College.

FastTrac NewVenture is ground zero for anyone interested in starting a business. An education program created by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs, NewVenture is designed to help you evaluate and perfect your business concept. Taught by seasoned entrepreneurs in your community, FastTrac is a hands-on program that uses your idea as a case study, giving you an opportunity to "workshop" your venture in a safe and supportive environment. FastTrac NewVenture is a nine-module, 31.5 hour program.

Through FastTrac NewVenture, participants will discover whether the life of an entrepreneur is right for them. It takes a three-dimensional look at their concepts as well as study issues such as: What additional opportunities exist for entrepreneurs? How can I market my new business? How do I price my products and services? How do I begin developing a budget?

FastTrac NewVenture will be held every Tuesday from January 13, 2009 - March 17, 2009 at Midlands Technical College. Interested entrepreneurs may sign up for the program by visiting www.FastTracSC.org or contacting [Tom Ledbetter](#) for more information.

Quick Links...

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The CoEE Program has enabled



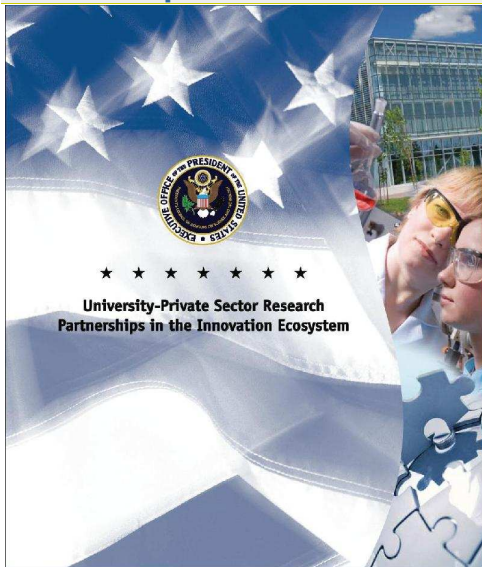
South

Carolina's research universities to recruit some of the world's leading scientists and engineers. This elite group includes not only some of America's brightest minds, but also top researchers from other parts of the globe.

Like newly appointed CoEE endowed chair Dr. Obeid, who is originally from the Middle East, these scientists have relocated to South Carolina from around the world largely because of the CoEE Program. Across the board, their innovative research has strong potential for commercialization and can lead to high-paying jobs that will energize South Carolina's economy.

Click [here](#) to meet some of the international scientists who are now CoEE endowed chairs.

Key To Promoting Innovation Ecosystem: University-Industry Partnerships



The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) recently released

ed a report highlighting the importance of strengthening ties between universities and industry as the key to promoting an "innovation ecosystem" in the U.S. The [report](#) provides an overview of the U.S. research and development (R&D) enterprise and focuses on the critical role for university-private sector research partnerships, their potential to improve research and innovation, and the obstacles standing in the way of further progress.

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The report calls for continued Federal government support of basic research while long-term economic and regulatory changes are made to help tap into increasing research capacity in university labs. Among the recommendations called for: updating and enhancing the R&D tax credit; developing guidance on intellectual property and technology-transfer practices; evaluating the impact and scalability of open innovation models; and, developing tools and metrics to guide policies and incentive structures.

The Council submitted the report to the current administration and noted that a document is being prepared for the transition team of President-elect Barack Obama.

To read the full report, click [here](#).

Da Vinci Meets Da Vinci - Saturday, December 20th

da Vinci meets da Vinci



In a unique, one-day only event blending art and science, visitors to the extraordinary Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion exhibit at the S.C. State Museum can test drive the da Vinci robot, brought to you by the Robotic Suregry Center at Palmetto Health Richland.

Science Cafe visited the da Vinci robot in September 2007, and participants got to take it for a "test drive." On Saturday, December 20, you will have another chance to see for yourself what it takes to use this amazing technology at the SC State Museum from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To learn more about the da Vinci robot and the surgeons who use it, click [here](#).

New Innovista Tenant Announced!

Horizon Center: Horizon II



USC announced today that a public-private partnership headed by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina will lease up to two floors and 17,000 square feet in Innovista's Horizon II building.

The consortium, called the Consortium for Enterprise Systems Management, includes BlueCross, IBM, USC, and other universities and businesses that do high transaction processing. The organization would use the leased space to train students to become information-technology professionals and to do research on mainframe computing applications. USC will manage the center, allowing the university to expand its research into mainframe computer technology.

[Horizon II](#) is the fourth building announced for USC's research campus, Innovista. When built, it will join the Arnold School of Public Health, the Horizon I building and the Discovery I building where Engenuity '08 was held in November.

To learn more about Innovista, click [here](#).

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