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Attracting the Best and Brightest to Columbia: Talent Report Released Monday

Columbia Talent Magnet

To inspire the community to help build a talent-powered economy in our region, the Columbia Talent Magnet Project (CTMP) team has published a report, "[A Road Map to a Talent-Powered Economy: Attracting the Best and Brightest to Columbia.](#)" outlining five key recommendations.

The report and recommendations grew out of an effort launched by the CTMP and the [Southern Growth Policies Board](#) in 2008.

The CTMP partners include [Navigating from good to Great and the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce](#), [EngenuitySC](#), [New Carolina, COR](#), and the [Columbia Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau](#). The project is managed by EngenuitySC.

Download a copy of the full report and complete survey results [here](#).

Freshly Trained Entrepreneurs Enter the Community

A new batch of entrepreneurs recently graduated from [FastTrac Growth Venture](#).



Congratulations to the following entrepreneurs:

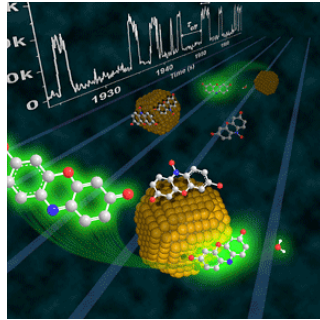
Selwyn Blake, Owner, Strictly Running
Chad Palmer, Store Manager, Strictly Running
Loretta Felder-McKelvey, DDS
Katrina Spigner, Author/Life Coach/Speaker
Ron Washington, Owner, OMAN Tutoring and Mentoring Services
Charlie Banks, The Banks Group
Rob Summer, Publisher
Derek Riley, COO, Dennis Corporation

Have you got an idea, passion, or hobby that you would like to turn into a business? See below for some upcoming opportunities for entrepreneurial training.

FastTrac NewVenture
Starts Tuesday, July 7
6-9pm at Midlands Technical College's Northeast campus
Register [here](#)

Gold Nanoparticles Are Not So Golden for the Environment

Nanoparticles are too tiny to see or touch. So what happens when these super small manmade particles enter the natural ecosystem?



Researchers at the [University of South Carolina's Nanocenter](#), working with scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Charleston, recently published their findings from a study examining whether gold nanorods could readily pass from water to the marine food web.

Their [findings](#) suggest that manmade nanoparticles can enter the estuarine food and ultimately could find their way into the seafood that humans eat. The research provides a road map for what to study next and serves as a baseline for future studies on the environmental impact of nanomaterials.

To read more about the latest research at the USC Nanocenter, click [here](#).

Can Policy Foster Innovation?

[The Information Technology & Innovation Foundation](#)

recently published a report recommending that the President create an Office of Innovation Policy (OIP) that would have the authority to push agencies to act in a manner that either affirmatively promotes innovation or achieves a particular regulatory objective in a manner least damaging to innovation.

The report discusses why innovation policy should be a priority for the US government, outlines the limitations of the current innovation policy, and describes what the structure and function of a new Office of Innovation Policy would be.

Do you think that establishing an Office of Innovation Policy could better serve innovation policymakers?



Artist as an Entrepreneur Institute
Starts Monday, July 13
6-9:30pm at Midlands Technical
College's Northeast campus
Register [here](#)

USC-Columbia Fuel Cell Collaborative Recognized Nationally



The [USC-Columbia Fuel Cell Collaborative](#) was honored as one of the South's top innovators at the Southern Growth Policies Board Annual Conference, [The Business of Southern Energy](#), in Biloxi, Miss. The award praised the collaborative for its use of technologies to promote energy efficiency, its promotion of cross-industry collaboration, and its special public-private cooperation.

The National Science Foundation is now premiering a video filmed in Columbia in mid April 2009 featuring Mayor Coble, Dr. Van Zee and officers from the Columbia Department of Homeland Security and Police Department. You can watch or download the video from the [National Science Foundation website](#).

Science Cafe is Launching a New Series Starting July 29

[Science Cafe](#) is taking on a slightly new look this summer starting July 29.

The new "Launch Pad" series will fulfill dual goals of creating knowledge and awareness of science *and* of spurring innovation and entrepreneurial thought in the community.



Mark your calendars for the next Science Cafe event on Wednesday, July 29th with [EnGenCore](#). More details will be emailed in July.

The Science Cafe Launch Pad Series: Wheels will turn, sparks will fly, and innovation will occur!