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### Student Incubator Company Among BusinessWeek's America's Best Young Entrepreneurs



Josh Hackler grew up working in his father's restaurants, getting an insider's view of the industry and developing a passion for wine. In college, eager to return to Spain after spending a day there as a 14- year-old on a family trip to Europe, he spent a semester abroad in Oviedo, Spain. There, he frequented a restaurant known for its wine and became friends with one of the owners, who had connections in the Spanish wine industry.

When he returned to the U.S., Hackler was determined to start a business that would allow him to combine his passion for Spain and its wine-without competing with large wine importers. The result is Spanish Vines, the boutique label he founded in 2006 that now sells its five wines wholesale to restaurants and stores. Hackler is optimistic about distribution, emphasizing a push to

### Welcome to Columbia, Trulite!



On September 18th, the four charter members of the USC Columbia Fuel Cell Collaborative officially welcomed the first fuel cell related manufacturing company to Columbia and to the state of South Carolina. [Trulite, Inc.](#), the only fuel cell company to offer both fuel cell and fuel source in one fully integrated system, is heading to town to develop a pilot manufacturing facility at Midlands Technical College's Enterprise Campus [Business Accelerator](#).

The pilot facility will serve as Trulite's North American manufacturing site for its high energy density Hydrocell(TM) fuel cell cartridges. The manufacturing process for the Hydrocell(TM) will create the capability to produce up to 25,000 Hydrocells(TM) per year. Full- scale manufacturing operations could begin as soon as the third quarter of 2009. Trulite is already looking to hire a [Senior Hydrocell Technician](#).

"This manufacturing capability will

restaurants in Manhattan and several states in the Southeast, and says revenue for his two-person business has quadrupled since January.

A current [USC Columbia Technology Incubator](#) resident and recent graduate of the FastTrac system in the Midlands, Hackler was nominated this summer for BusinessWeek's fourth annual search to discover the most promising young entrepreneurs in the U.S. He was picked as one of the most impressive of the bunch and made the finalist list. The final vote will be announced at the end of September.

To learn more about Spanish Vines, visit the company website at [www.spanishvines.com](http://www.spanishvines.com)

### Where Do The Candidates Stand On Innovation?

Effective technology and innovation policies will be an important part of the solution to deal with the challenging economic situation. A new Information Technology and Innovation Policy Foundation report was



released that compares the two presidential candidates on innovation and technology policies. The study tracks the candidates' position in eleven key areas, including tax, trade, education and workforce policies.

The report highlights that McCain and Obama bring different programs to the table, which means that in the policy area of innovation and technology voters will have a clear choice between two competing perspectives.

What's your stand on innovation and technology policy? Download the September 2008 Information Technology and Innovation Policy Foundation report, [Comparing the Candidates' Technology and Innovation Policies](#), by Stephen J. Ezell and Robert D. Atkinson.

### Do You Know About Columbia's SHARE Network?



The City of Columbia, the Midlands Workforce Development Board and Fast Forward were awarded a U.S. Department of Labor SHARE Network. What's a SHARE Network and how can it be used?

A SHARE Network is a free online database of resources available to the public that can be used to help meet

be the first of its kind in the world," noted John White, Chairman of the Board for Trulite. "Trulite is proud to work with the state of South Carolina to develop processes to bring fuel cell products to the commercial market in America."

Trulite selected South Carolina after attending the National Hydrogen Association's Military Uses of Hydrogen Forum in Columbia in October 2007. Trulite was also an award recipient of the [Greater Columbia Fuel Cell Challenge](#) in 2008.

"Trulite's innovative technologies made it the ideal choice for rapid deployment of the first fuel cell related manufacturing facility in the state," said Bill Mahoney, CEO of SCRA.

The pilot project was the result of a joint effort supported by SCRA, SC Launch!, the City of Columbia, Midlands Technical College, the University of South Carolina, Richland County, the Central SC Alliance, the South Carolina Department of Commerce, and EngenuitySC.

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employment goals. SHARE is an acronym for Showing How Access to Resources Empowers. Resource searches are based upon the service, its location/county, or provider name. The online database brings together workforce development partners, faith-based organizations, community organizations, businesses and government agencies.

Interested in becoming a SHARE Network member or learning more about it? Then, check out the website at [www.columbiasharenet.org](http://www.columbiasharenet.org).

#### Hot Dates for Cool Events

Want to know what events are coming up on the knowledge economy calendar? Check it out....



- [New Ideas for a New Carolina](#) - Kicks Off **October 1st**
- [FastTrac New Venture](#) - Classes start **October 9th**
- [2008 EngenuitySC Leadership Conference](#) - **November 12th**
- [Global Entrepreneur Week](#) - **November 17th-23rd**

#### Make Your Idea A Reality

The fourth annual "New Ideas for a New Carolina" contest will begin on October 1, 2008 and run through December 1, 2008 with the winner being announced February 11, 2009 at the [ThinkTEC Innovation Summit](#) where once again the light will shine on the imagination and innovation of the residents or South Carolina.

[SC Launch!](#) is supporting the 2009 contest as the premium sponsor. The Grand Prize winner will walk away with \$5,000 to support their idea. The remaining category winners (engineering, software/internet technology, bio-sciences, environmental sustainability, and a wildcard) will receive \$2,500 with the first runner-up in each category getting \$1,000. In addition, all winners are given a full scholarship to the nationally recognized [FastTrac](#) class of their choice and the Grand Prize winner will be given



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**NEW  
IDEAS**

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access to a dream team of mentors.

For more details about the contest and how to enter, stay tuned with the [New Carolina](#) website.

Email: [news@engenuitysc.com](mailto:news@engenuitysc.com)