

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

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SC's Presence Prominent at NHA 08...Time To Get Ready For Hosting NHA 09



With five panelists, three honorary members, and more than 20 high-ranking business and research

Leading Neurodegeneration Researcher Recruited To SC



Dr. Marc Chimowitz, one of the country's leading researchers in the field of neurodegeneration, is now a South Carolina Centers of Economic Excellence (CoEE) Endowed Chair and will lead a \$25 million clinical trial on stroke prevention at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

The clinical trial is funded by the National Institutes of Health and is among the largest extramural research grants in state history. Involving patients at more than 50 sites across the country, Chimowitz and his colleagues will examine the value of using stents to prevent strokes in patients whose brain arteries have hardened and narrowed due to plaque buildup (atherosclerotic stenosis).

Stroke research is especially relevant in South Carolina, which has the nation's second-highest mortality rate in stroke, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "In Dr. Chimowitz, the CoEE Program has recruited one of the country's foremost researchers in clinical stroke research," noted Paula Harper Bethea, who chairs the CoEE Review Board. "He has already brought substantial research dollars to the state, and in time his work could affect the lives of countless South Carolinians and people around the world who are at risk of

delegates, South Carolina increased its visibility for its hydrogen and fuel cells at the National Hydrogen Association (NHA) annual conference in Sacramento, California. South Carolina had the largest delegation present and showcased the state's assets to more than 1,500 national and international stakeholders.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Rep. Bob Inglis (R-SC) and Columbia Mayor Bob Coble were each granted honorary memberships to the NHA. Sen. Graham and Rep. Inglis chair the Senate and House Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Caucuses, and Mayor Coble guided the City of Columbia to unanimously pass a resolution supporting the city's objective to become a leader in fuel cell innovation

In 2009, the NHA conference will travel to Columbia, attracting 1,600 of the world's most influential leaders in energy, alternative energy, clean technology, automotive, and manufacturing to our region. The total economic impact of the conference has been estimated at close to \$2 million, in addition to any pre- and post- conference events around the state.

"The National Hydrogen Association's 20th Annual Conference represents one of the single largest opportunities the Columbia region has for showcasing its emerging leadership position in the global hydrogen and fuel cell economy," said Mayor Bob Coble. "This conference is the pinnacle event for the industry, and Columbia is proud to be the host city in 2009."

For more information on the National Hydrogen Association and its annual conference, visit www.hydrogenassociation.org

SC Ranks 2nd In The Country in High-Tech Industry Job Growth



High tech is defined as technology that is at the cutting edge - the most advanced technology currently

stroke.

The CoEE Program was established by the South Carolina General Assembly in 2002, with \$200 million appropriated from the South Carolina Education Lottery Account to fund the program through 2010. By investing in talent and technology, the CoEE Program is designed to fuel the state's knowledge-based economy, resulting in high-paying jobs and an improved standard of living in South Carolina.

For more information on the CoEE Program, visit www.sccoee.org

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available. So, how does SC measure up versus the rest of the country in growth in high-tech industry jobs - we rank 2nd in the country!

AeA, the nation's largest technology trade association representing all segments of the high-tech industry, recently released its 11th annual *Cyberstates* report detailing national and state trends in high-tech employment, wages, and other key economic factors. According to the report, SC ranks 2nd in the country on a percent change basis in growth of high-tech industry jobs, beating out states such as California and Texas.

South Carolina is rapidly embracing the new economy, an economy in which the keys to job creation and higher standards of living are innovation and technology. EngenuitySC is working to build that bridge to the next economy in the Columbia region. Columbia has a multitude of valuable resources in place from business incubation to investment capital to education and research. Things are happening here and now. Mayor Coble notes, "Our progress is real. Columbia's renaissance no longer requires faith to believe, only eyes to see. No matter how you define it, Columbia really is a renaissance city."

Cyberstates 2008: A Complete State-by-State Overview of the High-Technology Industry is available at www.aeanet.org

June Science Cafe: Plugging the Science and Engineering Brain Drain

Please join us and bring a friend to our June Science Cafe featuring **Dean Michael Amiridis** from the USC College of Engineering and Computing.



The expression "brain drain" is unfortunately the most fitting to describe what's happening in science and engineering across the country. Engineering is one of

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the core competencies in our region's knowledge economy. So, in a time when Columbia is becoming a leader in the knowledge economy, what is the solution to plugging the drain?

Find out more about the issues facing engineering education and the steps being taken towards a solution at the next Science Cafe.....

When: June 10th

Where: MCafe (1417 Sumter Street)

Time: 6:00-7:00 PM

Speaker: Dr. Michael Amiridis, Dean and Professor at the USC College of Engineering and Computing

RSVP: krobinson@engenuitysc.com

As always, all ages are welcome and a background in science is not necessary!

For more information about Science Cafe check out www.engenuitysc.com/sciencecafe/

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