

### Greetings!

Please take a moment to take a look at the exciting things going on with the knowledge economy around South Carolina!

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### Columbia Rockets Up The Milken Institute's "Best Performing Cities" List



The Columbia Metropolitan Statistical Area rose 65 places in the Milken Institute's "2007 Best Performing Cities in the USA" report. Columbia was one of the top movers in the nation, behind cities such as Salt Lake City, UT; Mobile, AL; Houston, TX; Tulsa, OK; and San

Francisco, CA. South Carolina's other major cities fared well also, with Greenville-Spartanburg moving up 57 places and Charleston moving up 10 places. "This report mirrors the strong efforts Columbia and

### Science Cafe Tuesday, February 12 6-7pm



**Date:** February 12, 2008  
**Time:** 6-7pm  
**Venue:** California Dreaming  
**Address:** 401 Main St.  
**RSVP:** Tory Sojourner at [TSojourner@EngenuitySC.com](mailto:TSojourner@EngenuitySC.com)  
**Speaker:** TBA

**Topic:** Science Cafe (Café Scientifique) is a place where, for the price of a cup of coffee or a glass of wine, anyone can come to explore the latest ideas in science and technology. Meetings take place in cafes, bars, restaurants and even theatres but always outside of a traditional academic context. Come hear the latest that science has to offer; ask the hard questions; get real answers; and explore the possibilities that science has for your life with EngenuitySC's Science Cafe. This month, we have a new venue and a new topic that is sure to challenge your traditional conventions about

our state are making in improving our economic prospects for the future," noted Neil McLean, Executive Director of EngenuitySC.

The Milken Institute Best-Performing Cities Index measures which metropolitan areas of the United States are most successful at job creation and retention and demonstrate the best overall economic performance. Specifically, it measures where jobs are being created and maintained, where wages and salaries are increasing, and where economies and businesses are growing and thriving. The Index allows businesses, industry associations, economic development agencies, investors, academics and government and public policy groups to assess, monitor and gain insight into a metro's performance. It also provides benchmarking data that can be used for developing strategies to improve and maintain a metro's economic performance. Moreover, it is a tool for understanding consumer and business expansion opportunities.

For the full report, please visit the Milken Institute's website at: [www.milkeninstitute.org](http://www.milkeninstitute.org).

### Calling All "Hydrentrepreneurs"- The H-prize is Back

If you are interested in hydrogen, fuel cells, technology



or just innovative entrepreneurial opportunities, please read on. Just when you thought the federal government had written off hydrogen as a potential energy mechanism for the future, South Carolina's own U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis helped pull the topic back into the spotlight. The energy measure, which the House passed in late 2007 on a 314-100 vote, authorizes the federal government to give tens of millions of dollars to winners of a new prize aimed at speeding the development and widespread use of hydrogen-fueled cars. South Carolina, especially Columbia, has made the pursuit of hydrogen fuel cell technology a building block for the state's future economy. The state could be in line to claim some of that money.

science and expand your mind about the future.

### Quick Links...

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"We can clean up the air, we can create jobs and we can improve the national security of the United States by reducing our energy dependency on foreign fuels," said Inglis, a Greenville Republican completing his fifth House term. Separate provisions Inglis also included in the energy bill require most federal government buildings and other installations to use energy-efficient lights.

The cost of producing and transporting has slowed the development of hydrogen-powered cars in the United States, as has the weight and size of hydrogen fuel cells for cars.

But Honda, BMW and General Motors are spending billions of dollars on hydrogen vehicle prototypes. Inglis said his "H-Prize" idea will accelerate momentum toward such cars by establishing prestigious awards carrying large cash payments to winners. "We want teams of entrepreneurs and inventors pushing themselves," Inglis said. See the full article at: [www.thestate.com](http://www.thestate.com).

#### **FastTrac Tech Readies to Launch Seminar Series in the Midlands**



The Midlands is quickly becoming a hotbed for talented technology gurus. So, you've come up with a groundbreaking idea: a

way to cure cancer, re- sequence the human genome, create hydrogen from algae, or develop a new platform for e-commerce. You have the vision, but now how do you turn your vision into a reality? Are you a techy? Do you think your potential product has commercial value? Would you like to collaborate with like-minded techpreneurs?

EngenuitySC, in partnership with the University of South Carolina, Midlands Technical College, SC Launch! and a host of other organizations is planning to launch the first series of FastTrac Tech Venture seminars in Columbia this summer. Join us for the 11-week series of FastTrac Tech Venture seminars, where you'll team up with seasoned business facilitators, technology savvy coaches and proven entrepreneurs, and the region's budding technology entrepreneurs.

Graduates of FastTrac Tech describe the program as one that encourages technology entrepreneurs to

determine the economic feasibility of their business concept, reevaluate the feasibility of the technology, design a business model that matches a personal vision, and create a business plan to communicate the opportunity to investors. FastTrac Tech is a two-phase, multi-session program created by technology entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs, like you. Delivered by seasoned entrepreneurs in the community, FastTrac Tech's hands-on program uses your business as a case study, giving you the opportunity to put proven business practices to work in today's environment. The price of the course is very reasonable, and scholarships are available to qualified applicants.

Registration will open in late spring, but class sizes are limited, so be prepared to sign up soon.

To learn more about FastTrac's Tech Venture program visit: [www.fasttracsc.org](http://www.fasttracsc.org)

#### **Innoventure 2008 Entrepreneurship Presenters' Deadline Approaching**



Since 2004, 50 companies have presented to investors at InnoVenture annual conferences. At least 15 have companies have progressed to raise capital, with cumulative publicly announced investments exceeding \$86,000,000. These companies represent a pipeline of emerging opportunities, which stem from their presentations to InnoVenture made 12 to 24 months prior their investment rounds. Successful prior InnoVenture presenters include: [Frank Greer](#) of Zipit, [Pearce Gilbert](#) of Argolyn Bioscience, [Michael Bolick](#) of Selah Technologies, [Colin Martin](#) of PromoPipeline, and [Steve Johnson](#) of CreatiVasc Medical.

InnoVenture is an annual conference presented by Swamp Fox, an interactive community connecting people with great ideas to others with expertise, resources and customers. InnoVenture provides the opportunity for these people to network, learn from each other and build personal relationships. InnoVenture features:

1. Elevator pitches by entrepreneurial companies to investors
2. Presentations by Anchor organizations of

innovation priorities

3. The Innovation Hall, featuring around 100 participants' exhibits.

If you are interested in making a presentation at InnoVenture 2008, connect to: [www.swampfox.ws](http://www.swampfox.ws)

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