

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

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Talented Technology Gurus Making Their Vision a Reality in the Midlands



The Midlands is quickly becoming a hotbed for talented technology gurus. On April 8th, 18 such gurus will start working to make their vision a reality through the Midland's inaugural FastTrac Tech Venture

course.

The Midlands entrepreneurial leaders are stepping up in a very unique collaboration between EngenuitySC, Midlands Technical College, USC, SC Launch!, and the USC Columbia Technology Incubator to launch the region's first tech-based entrepreneurial educational program.

FastTrac Tech Venture is an 11-week seminar where the region's budding technology entrepreneurs team up with seasoned business facilitators and technology savvy coaches. The program 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.

Programs like FastTrac Tech Venture are fueling the innovation pipeline in the Columbia, SC region by encouraging entrepreneurship and the commercialization of ideas and technology. The inaugural class represents some of the region's brightest innovators, mixed with recent technology spin-offs, start-ups, and relocated companies. "This Tech Venture class

South Carolina Sends Large Delegation to US's Largest Hydrogen Conference



More than 20 high-ranking business and research leaders from across South Carolina are in Sacramento, CA this week at the National Hydrogen Association's Annual Conference, the US's largest of its type.

The five-day conference will bring South Carolina's delegation in contact with industry and private business leaders to create new partnerships that will bring hydrogen and fuel cell technologies to our state.

South Carolina's delegation includes representation from the South Carolina Hydrogen Fuel Cell Alliance, USC, Savannah River National Laboratory, the City of Columbia, and Center for Hydrogen Research, the Columbia

boasts companies from multiple disciplines," stated Tom Ledbetter, a FastTrac facilitator with Midlands Technical College. "We have companies covering software development, pharmaceuticals, web development, micro fuel cells, smart transportation, medical devices, robotics, and many others."

For more information about FastTrac programs and to enroll in an upcoming class, visit www.fasttracsc.org. Make your vision a reality today!

South Carolina Venture Capital Roadshow a Success!



The Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with EngenuitySC and ThinkTEC, hosted the "2008 South Carolina Venture Capital Forum" in Columbia on March 5th. Well over 100 stakeholders, advisors, entrepreneurs, and community leaders gathered to hear

presentation from four venture capital firms - Nexus Medical Partners, Noro-Moseley Partners, Frontier Capital, & Azalea Capital - selected by the state to allocate the funds from the Venture Capital Investment Act.

Passed in 2005, the Venture Capital Investment Act increases availability to venture capital for emerging, expanding, relocating, and restructuring enterprises in the State of South Carolina. The process is to be facilitated by the South Carolina Venture Capital Authority, which was created in the Act. The act allows for the South Carolina Venture Capital Authority to enter into agreements with one or more persons (each, a "Designated Investor Group") in raising private funds through loans from qualified lenders and use such funds to make venture capital investments

The Venture Capital Investment Act is essential in the development of our region's entrepreneurial ecosystem. The Act provides infrastructure that supports entrepreneurial activity and innovation in South Carolina. The four chosen firms represent different stages of venture capital funding from early start-ups to mature, later-stage companies. Each company has certain allocations to invest in the state to foster homegrown businesses and help them become successful.

For more information about the four venture capital firms....

Nexus Medical Partners: www.nexusmp.com

Noro-Moseley Partners: www.noro-moseley.com

Frontier Capital: www.frontierfunds.com

Azalea Capital: www.azaleacapital.com

Metropolitan Airport, the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, the USC Columbia Fuel Cell Collaborative, the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau, EngenuitySC, DESA Inc., SCRA, and SCLaunch.

In 2009, the 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.

For more information, visit www.hydrogenassociation.org

Quick Links...

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[Greater Columbia Fuel Cell Challenge](#)

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April Science Cafe: The Carbon Footprint....Fact or Fiction?

Global warming is one of the most serious problems facing us today. Climate research shows that most of the warming over the past half century results from manmade greenhouse gases. To protect the health and well being of current and future generations, we must reduce our carbon footprint by using technology and practical solutions already at our disposal.



Find out more about the science and the solutions of global warming at the next Science Cafe.....

When: April 16th

Where: Nonnah's (930 Gervais Street)

Time: 6:00-7:00 PM

Speaker: Brian Helmuth, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences & Marine Sciences, USC

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/default.aspx

Email: news@engenuitysc.com



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