



Date: February 28, 2015

Memo To: Town of Bluffton Town Council; Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors; Marc Orlando, Town Manager

From: David Nelems, Don Ryan Center for Innovation Executive Director

RE: FEBRUARY 2015 DON RYAN CENTER FOR INNOVATION STATUS REPORT

Center Operations

- Morning meetings with **Matt Green** every other Friday
- Misc. work on **Grant paperwork/reporting**.
- Email blasts and registration process for upcoming **educational session**.
- Misc. **grant paper work** and calls with SC Dept. of Innovation.
- Completed a **grant application with the Bank of America**.
- Completed **fourth draw of Innovation grant money** in the amount of ~\$41,000.00
- Completed a draft of the upcoming **DRCI annual budget**.
- Published **quarterly newsletter** via an email blast to more than 3,000 people.
- Created a **DRCI overview presentation** for the upcoming **Clemson/Sandhills event**.
- Created a **BaseCamp overview presentation** for the upcoming **Clemson/Sandhills event**.
- **Met with TOB finance Dept.** regarding budget and other financial items.

Innovators

- See **Innovator Status Sheet** as of February 28th.
- **Signed 10th innovator "Scionz"**. This is **Mike Raymond's second company** in the DRCI
- Met with **every innovator at least once** (some multiple times) during the month. A lot of progress with each company in February.
- **Village Features** and **CERAS** worked the **SCAD Career Fair** booth as they are **looking for PT employees or interns**.
- Calls/video conferences with **Clemson**.
- **"HovCov"** exhibited at the **Savannah Home Show**.
- Completed **Freedom Toilet Seat website**.
- Added a **second mentor** to the **Taylor Offshore** team.
- Added a **third mentor** to the **Village Features** team.
- Added the first **mentor** to the **Freedom Toilet Seat** team.

- Working with **mobiPet** and **CERAS** who are competing at “**FastPitch**” event in **Savannah**.
- Currently there are **10 innovators** in the Center.

Outreach and Strategic Relationships

- Second **SCAD education session on “Introduction to Entrepreneurship”**.
- Working on a “**Pitch Event**” at **Palmetto Bluff** to interested investors with three **DRCI** companies.
- Working with **Pam Davis** from **McCracken Middle School** for a series of **sessions on 3d printing and innovation** to 4 different classes in **March**.
- Beginning logistics and planning on first annual **DRCI Golf Tournament**. We have asked for the date of **October 5th**. Decision is pending.
- Interviewed three people about managing the **DRCI Golf Tournament** for us. Decision pending.
- Beginning logistics and planning for the **RBC Heritage Expo booth**.
- Exhibited at the **SCAD Career Fair** in Savannah. Very successful event.
- Met with principals of the “**Lowcountry Angels**” group who are looking to start a fund in our area.
- Spoke about the DRCI to the **Beaufort County Senior Leadership Group**. – 48 attendees
- Attended the **Savannah Home Show** where “**HovCov**” had a successful trade show.
- Hosted monthly **WordPress “Meet-Up”** meeting.
- Hosted monthly “**SC Women on the Fast Track**” meeting.
- Hosted our **monthly education session**. Topic was “**Search Engine Optimization**” - **28 attendees**

Town of Bluffton Operations

- Annual **strategic planning** meeting with **Lyle S**.
- Strategic **planning prep meeting** with **Town Senior Staff**.
- Created “**Briefing Sheet**” format for **Strategic Planning** sessions.
- Attended **Town Council meeting** on **February 10th**.
- **Screened and recommend an IT professional** for the **TOB IT vacancy**.

Press

- **Front page feature** in the “**Bluffton Packet**” section of the **Island Packet**.