



Date: April 30, 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: APRIL 2015 DON RYAN CENTER FOR INNOVATION STATUS REPORT**

*(Please note that Director Nelems took vacation days from April 21-24)*

**Center Operations**

- Email blasts and registration process for upcoming **educational session**.
- Misc. **grant paper work** and calls with SC Dept. of Innovation.
- Submitted draft of the upcoming **DRCI annual budget**.
- Phone interviews with **potential Board members**.
- Setup/Worked /Tear Down of **Expo Booth at Heritage**. 7 innovators worked the event.
- Began development of **LowCountryWorks.com** website for May launch.
- Created **DRCIGolf.com** website.

**Innovators**

- See **Innovator Status Sheet** as of April 30th.
- Met with **every innovator at least once** (some multiple times) during the month. A lot of progress with each company in March.
- Calls/video conferences with **Clemson**.
- Currently there are **10 innovators** in the Center.
- Met with **two potential innovators**.
- Worked on **CERAS website**.
- DigSouth prep with **mobiPet**.

**Outreach and Strategic Relationships**

- Fourth SCAD **education session on "Introduction to Entrepreneurship"**.
- Attended/spoke at annual Clemson Technology Village Summit
- Hosted monthly **WordPress "Meet-Up"** meeting.
- Hosted monthly **"SC Women on the Fast Track"** meeting.

- Hosted our **monthly education session**. Topic was “Business Law”
- Working with former School Superintendent **Jackie Rosswurm** on DRCI/Beaufort Schools program.
- Hosted and spoke at **Bluffton Chamber Coffee Networking** on April 7<sup>th</sup> for 32 people
- Day trip to Charleston to strengthen relationship with **Charleston Digital Corridor**
- HHI/Bluffton **Chamber of Commerce** Captains Meeting
- **DRCI Golf Tournament** Kick off meeting

#### Town of Bluffton Operations

- Attended **Town Council meeting**.
- Attended **Senior Staff** meetings.
- Attended and spoke at **Quarterly “All Hands” meeting**