

News Release

For Immediate Release: August 17, 2010
Contact:

Salute to Manufacturing Workshop Focuses on Building Future Workforce

Columbia, SC – As part of this year’s Salute to Manufacturing, the [South Carolina Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [Silver Crescent Foundation](#) are hosting an educational workshop focusing on Manufacturing’s Support of Education and Future Workforce Development. The workshop will take place from 10 – 11:30 am at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Columbia.

“Companies are keenly aware of the need to get more young people excited about working in the manufacturing sector, and the goal of this workshop is to highlight some best practices and exciting new programs being implemented across the state,” explained Robbie Barnett, associate vice president of Workforce Development and Education Policy for the Chamber. “We hope that as more manufacturing leaders discover the resources available to promote career exploration, they will begin to participate in similar activities in their local communities.”

Opening the forum will be Dr. Bob Couch with the SC Department of Education’s Office of Career and Technology Education. He will provide an update on the [Personal Pathways to Success](#)[™] initiative that was implemented in South Carolina as a result of the 2005 Education and Economic Development Act.

Then Jordy Johnson and Ann Brown of [Microburst Learning](#) will provide a demonstration of their highly-interactive Virtual Job Shadows they are developing in conjunction with business partners and the state Department of Education to showcase available careers online to the more than 260,000 high school students throughout the state. A South Carolina-based company, Microburst provides e-learning training tools for the corporate and education sectors.

The final presentation will be an Aiken area plant manager. Aiken has an active group of Aiken area plant managers who have participated in a number of activities designed to create greater understanding among educators, students and parents about the variety of career opportunities that exist in the world of manufacturing.

The cost to attend the educational forum is \$25 and the cost to attend the forum and luncheon afterwards is \$60. Visit www.scchamber.net to register.

Immediately following the workshop, the opening reception for the Salute to Manufacturing will begin, honoring past winners and current nominees. The awards luncheon begins at noon, and Gus Whalen, author and founder of [Featherbone Communiversity](#) in Gainesville, Georgia, will provide the keynote address. There are 14 South Carolina manufacturers vying to be recognized with the prestigious Silver Crescent Manufacturer of the Year Awards.

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