

DORCHESTER

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

2025-2026
ANNUAL REPORT







Message From The Director



Reflecting on this past year, I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together. From another record-setting year of investment to meaningful progress in infrastructure and workforce development, each success showcases the strength of the partnerships that make Dorchester County such a remarkable place to live, work, and do business.

This year was highlighted by Google's historic \$6 billion investment, alongside the announcement of Venom EV and the expansion of Quality Marble. We also continued investing in our future through critical infrastructure improvements.

Just as important, we remained committed to supporting the businesses already invested in our community through fostering engagement and partnerships. Our flagship workforce initiative, Tri-County STEMersion, continued to grow its impact this year, connecting nearly 200 educators with local industry.

None of these accomplishments happen in isolation. They are made possible by the vision, commitment, and generosity of investors and partners like you. Your investment is creating opportunities, strengthening our community, and helping shape an even brighter future for generations to come. Thank you for believing in Dorchester County.



John Truluck
JOHN TRULUCK
Executive Director

Meet The Team

OUR STAFF



MICHELLE MCDONALD
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



ANNA MCSWAIN
MARKETING & INVESTOR
RELATIONS ADMINISTRATOR



GORDON ROONEY
PROJECT MANAGER, EXISTING
INDUSTRY & WORKFORCE



AMY DIXON
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT

OUR BOARD

Jim Martin
Lauren Bailey
Brad Mallett
Eddie Crosby
Skip Elliott
Todd Friddle
Kevin Hart
Tim Kennedy
Tony Pope
Lamont Stevens
Rita Berry
Charles Daugherty
Phyllis Hughes
Sandy Price

Chairman
Vice Chair
Secretary Treasurer
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Ex-Officio Member
Ex-Officio Member
Ex-Officio Member
Ex-Officio Member

Ronnie Givens Emeritus Member
Henry Taylor Emeritus Member
George Tupper Emeritus Member



ADVANCE DORCHESTER

VISIONARY



VANGUARD



INNOVATOR

Alliance Consulting Engineers | Bowman | Burr & Forman LLP | CBRE | Chase Bank | Davis & Floyd | Dominion Energy | Evans General Contractors | First Citizens Bank | Foundry Commercial | Frampton Construction | GFI Partners | Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. | HCA Healthcare | Hill Construction | Hitt Contracting, Inc. | King Kozlerek & Root | M.B. Kahn Construction | McMillan Pazdan Smith | Miller Valentine Construction | NAI Charleston | Newkirk Environmental | Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative | Port95 Joint Venture | Renfrow Industrial | Reveer Group | Santee Cooper | Seamon Whiteside | SmHa | Synovus | Terracon | The Bank of South Carolina | Thomas & Hutton | THS Constructors | Truist Bank | Tupco | Vannoy Construction | Waste Management | Wells Fargo

ADVOCATE

Appraisal Services of SC | Avison Young | Berkeley Electric Cooperative | Bridge Commercial | Brown & Brown of SC | Carlisle Associates | CBC Atlantic | Certerra | Cityvolve LLC | Coastal Coffee Roasters, Inc | Colliers | Comact | Contract Construction | Cumming Group | Cushman Wakefield | Cypress Engineering | DD4 Properties & Development | ECPI University | ECS Southeast LLP | Edcon General Contractors | Edisto Electric Cooperative | Elliott Davis | Enterprise Bank | FHI Works | First National Bank of PA | GCM | Heritage Landcare | HLA | Iskagna | James T. Martin, Jr. MD | JJR Development | K-Con Construction | Larry Collett | Linden Construction | Little Diversified Architectural Consulting | LS3P | Marlboro Development Team | Mashburn Construction | MAU Workforce Solutions | Moore & Van Allen | MSS Solutions | Norfolk Southern Railway | Outdoor Spatial Design | Pryamid Contracting | Quikrete | Robbins Construction Group | S&ME | SC Power Team | Scott Insurance | Southern First Bank | Summerville Rotary Club | TD Bank | Tri-County Regional Chamber | United Community Bank | Webster Rogers

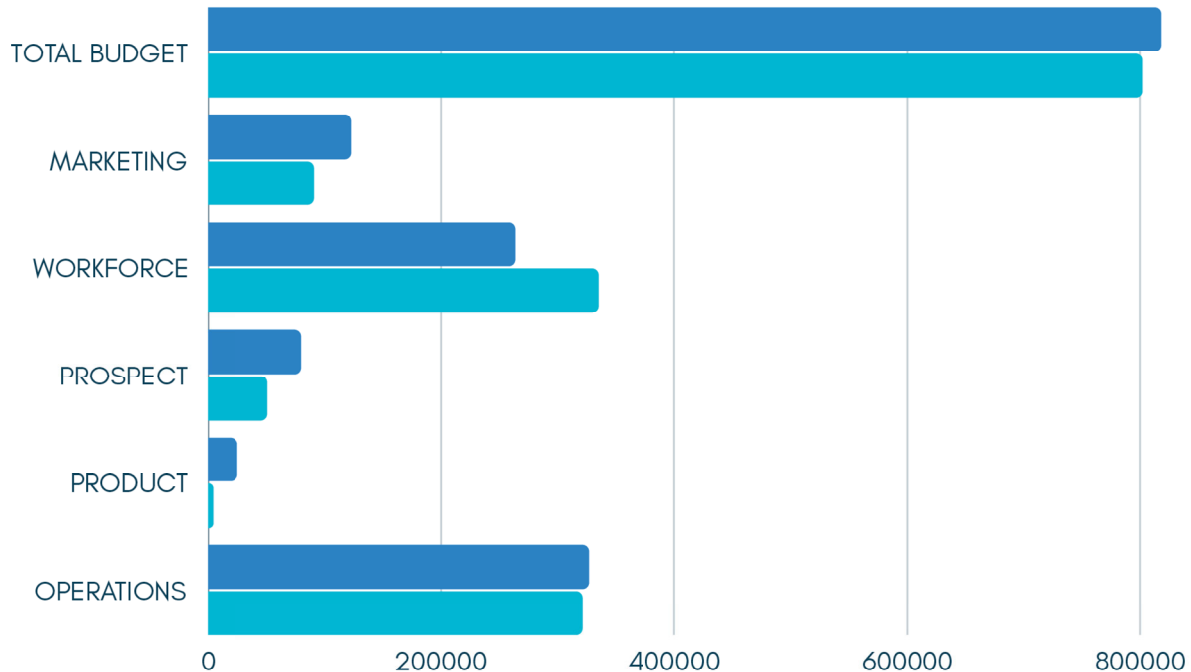
SUPPORTER

Allstate Insurance, Con Chellis | Fifth Third Bank | Heidelberg Materials | Maynard Nexsen | Mead & Hunt | Nelson Mullins | Robinson Weeks | ServisFirst Bank | Surface Restorations, LLC | Womble Bond Dickinson

By the Numbers

DEDC BUDGET FY 2025-2026

● BUDGET ● ACTUAL



ANNUAL GIVING



FOUR PILLARS

Advance Dorchester investments fuel the four key pillars that drive sustained economic growth in Dorchester County

Marketing

reaching the right audiences with the right message at the right time.

Product Development

preparing our sites & buildings for future industrial growth.

Prospect Development

hosting, traveling and doing what it takes to close the deal.

Workforce Development

training our citizens for the high-skill, high-pay jobs coming to the County.

Announcements



\$6 Billion
Expansion



\$14 Million
Expansion



VENOM EV

\$645,000
60 New Jobs



YEAR AT A GLANCE

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

\$6.015B
NEW INVESTMENT

60 NEW JOBS

44 INDUSTRY VISITS

Marketing



In 2025–26, the DCED team delivered more than 10 presentations and participated in eight news interviews, highlighting regional investments, workforce initiatives, and the county’s continued progress. Advertising and storytelling remained a priority, with strong visibility across local print and digital platforms to amplify key messages and community impact. Staff achievements were recognized through multiple awards, reflecting the team’s expertise and dedication. The year also concluded the Advance Dorchester renewal campaign, celebrated with a Signing Day recognizing more than \$60,000 in new annual giving commitments to support future economic development efforts.

Notable Achievements

Truluck

John Truluck was named to the inaugural South Carolina 500, presented by SCBIZ, recognizing the most influential leaders shaping South Carolina’s business and economic landscape.

In May 2026, he was also named President of the South Carolina Economic Developer’s Association after holding several positions of service for SCEDA over recent years.



McDonald

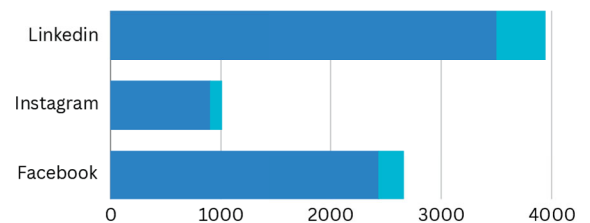
Michelle McDonald earned the prestigious designation of South Carolina Certified Economic Developer (SCCED) from the South Carolina Economic Developers’ Association (SCEDA).

She also received the Trailblazer of the Year Award from the Summerville Chamber, a recognition as an outstanding female leader.

McSwain

Anna McSwain was named a 2025 Women of Influence honoree by the Charleston Regional Business Journal.

Followers



Continued growth reflected across all social media platforms.

Product Development



Infrastructure Updates

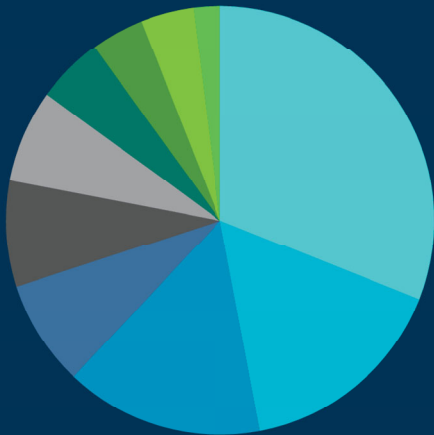
Dorchester County continued to make strategic infrastructure investments this year to support sustained industrial growth and development. Phase 1 of the Dorchester County Regional Water Interconnection—from Ridgeville to Pine Hill—was completed, strengthening system capacity and reliability, while construction is now underway on Phase 2 to further expand regional connectivity. Additional water infrastructure improvements included the completion of the Highway 178 water line, enhancing service in key growth areas.

Transportation projects also advanced significantly. Improvements to Spring Road have been completed, providing enhanced access between Winding Woods Commerce Park and US Highway 15. Construction has officially begun on the SC-27 widening project, which will create a critical link between Ridgeville Industrial Campus and I-26, with completion anticipated by the end of 2026.

Together, these infrastructure enhancements position Dorchester County to better support existing industry, attract new investment, and accommodate long-term economic growth.

Prospect Development

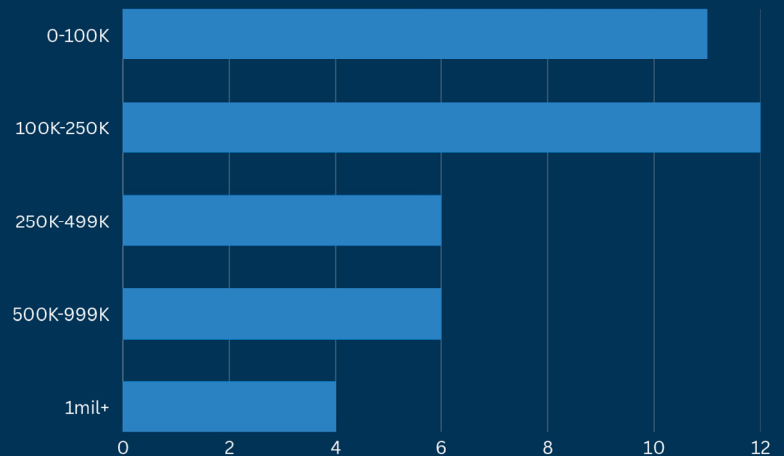
Inquiries by Sector



31%	Adv. Manufacturing
16%	Manufacturing
15%	Life Science
8%	Automotive
8%	Distribution/Logistics
7%	Aerospace
5%	Natural Resources
4%	Hospitality
4%	Technology
2%	Other



Inquiries by Square Footage



PROJECTS WORKED
averaging \$336million
and 430+ jobs per
potential project



PROSPECT VISITS
including 26 in
person and 16
virtual meetings



MARKETING TRIPS
including Dubai,
Germany, Italy, Turkey,
and 2 within the U.S.

Workforce Development



WE GOT JOBS!

DCED led and participated in 11 hiring events and job fairs, generating opportunities to connect employers with qualified talent.

936 JOB SEEKERS

This year, workforce development efforts connected 936 job seekers with meaningful local employment opportunities.

275 EMPLOYERS

A total of 275 employers participated in workforce development initiatives this year, demonstrating strong industry engagement and a shared commitment to building a skilled local workforce.

Youth Opportunities

Through **6 youth-focused events** and engagements, **1,577 students** gained hands-on exposure to careers, industries, and local employers.

From large-scale job fairs to industry tours and leadership programs, these efforts are helping prepare students and strengthen Dorchester County's future talent pipeline.

Tri-County STEMersion



BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY

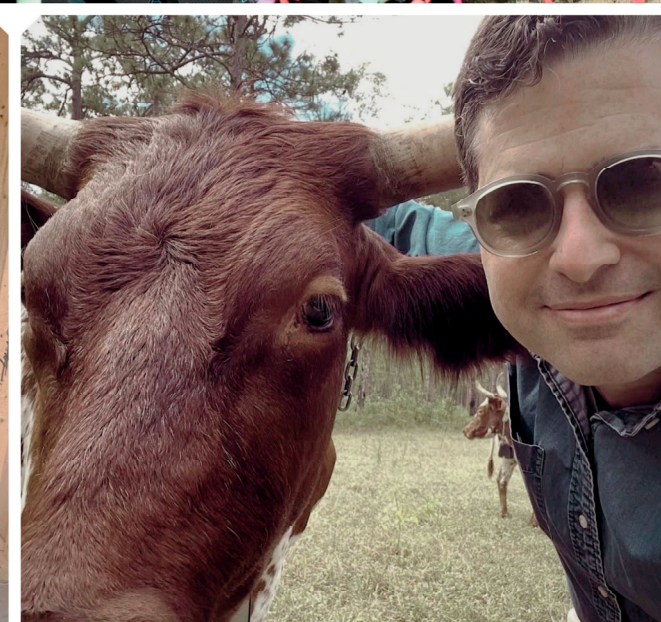
The 2026 Tri-County STEMersion Institute achieved its largest cohort to date, bringing together **195 educators** from across the region for immersive, industry-connected professional development.

Through hands-on experiences, **10 industry tours, 35 industry-led activities**, and engagement with **75 industry partners**, educators gained valuable insight into regional industries, workforce needs, and career pathways to better prepare students for future opportunities.

The program generated 200 classroom lesson plans and five collaborative projects, extending the impact of STEMersion well beyond the week-long experience and into classrooms throughout the Tri-County region.









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