

prosperity in practice

EVENT PROGRAM

8:00 Registration & Networking

8:30 Program Begins

Alice Howard • Chair, Beaufort County Council

Joel Braun • Chair, Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation

Prosperity at Home: Beaufort's Path to Growth



JOHN O'TOOLE •
Executive Director, Beaufort County Economic
Development Corporation

Prosperity at Home and Beyond: Statewide Perspectives on
Economic Development



HANNAH HALL • Panel Moderator



JAMES CHAVEZ •
President & CEO, South Carolina Power Team



GILLEON FRIESON •
Rural Program Manager, South Carolina
Department of Commerce



GREGG ROBINSON •
Chief Executive Officer, Florence County
Economic Development Partnership



SANDY STEELE •
President and CEO, P.W.S. Ventures, LLC

11:30

Conclusion

Welcome to Prosperity in Practice!

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, it is my privilege to welcome you to our inaugural Prosperity in Practice event. We appreciate your interest in economic development and the impact it has on our community.

Economic development is about building a better future for everyone who lives, works, and invests here. In Beaufort County, that means fostering opportunities that align with our local strengths while contributing to South Carolina's statewide growth.

Today, we are proud to bring together economic development leaders from across the state who share a deep connection to Beaufort County. Their expertise, insights, and vision will help us explore how collaboration, innovation, and strategic investment create lasting prosperity.

Thank you for joining us, and for your continued commitment to making the Lowcountry an excellent place to live and do business.



Sincerely,

Joel Braun, Chair

Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation

Welcome,

It's exciting to see so many of you here for Prosperity in Practice, an event designed to connect local leaders, businesses, and residents with some of South Carolina's most respected voices in economic development.

Our work at BCEDC focuses on three key measures: attracting capital investment, creating quality jobs, and strengthening relationships with the businesses that call Beaufort County home. Over the past year, we've made progress on all fronts, but we know our success depends on partnerships, both locally and statewide.

This event is an opportunity to share ideas, celebrate achievements, and look ahead to the industries and innovations that will shape our economy in the years to come. I encourage you to take full advantage of the networking, the panel discussions, and the chance to hear directly from the experts who are helping define South Carolina's economic future.

Thank you for your support, your participation, and your belief in Beaufort County's potential. Together, we can ensure that prosperity in practice becomes prosperity in reality.



Sincerely,

John O'Toole, Executive Director

Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation

Economic Development

It's not just about business. It's about **people**.

A Look at Our Growth



102

Projects



\$849M

Investments



3,223

Jobs



\$58,670

Avg. Annual Comp.

**Since October 2017*

Economic development is the work done behind the scenes to bring jobs, investment, and opportunity to our community. It means helping new businesses locate here, supporting local companies as they grow, and making sure Beaufort County is a place where people want to live and work.

Why It Matters



We work to attract **companies that pay well** — creating career opportunities for **all skill levels** in industries like light manufacturing, technology, distribution, and aerospace and defense.



New businesses **grow the tax base**, helping fund schools, public safety, and infrastructure — and easing the burden on residents.



We focus on industries that fit our region, **support small business growth**, and help keep talent here.

Our Process



Attract New
Companies



Support Local
Business Expansion



Coordinate with
State & Regional
Partners



Plan for Smart,
Long-Term Growth

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A huge thank you to our Prosperity in Practice sponsors!

We are grateful for their partnership in collaboration to build a stronger, more resilient economy in the Lowcountry.

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