



WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Williamsburg County Economic Development Board Announces Launch of Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

KINGSTREE, S.C. —Williamsburg County Economic Development Board has established the Williamsburg County Entrepreneurial Ecosystem to help bolster small business development.

The economic development team met with key stakeholders in August to gain support for the initiative. Supporting organizations include Small Business Development Center, Williamsburg Hometown Chamber, Williamsburg Technical College (Business Administration Program), Williamsburg Enterprise Community Commission, Telamon Corporation, and Main Street Kingstree.

An entrepreneurial ecosystem is an interconnected group of individuals and organizations collaborating to improve the flow of information, resources, and talent, so entrepreneurs can quickly obtain what they need. According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), small businesses create over 60% of new jobs annually in the United States. Research from the Service Corp of Retired Executives (SCORE) indicates that small businesses provide 42% of jobs in rural America.

“We’re expanding our focus in economic development to include a more concerted effort with small business development,” said Gilleon Frieson, executive director of WCEDB. “We will continue our pursuit to attract large industries to Williamsburg County, but an entrepreneurship-led economic development (ELED) approach will allow the county to experience and record job creation every year.”

The strategic focus for economic development professionals has traditionally been about attracting and recruiting large industrial operations. For rural counties like Williamsburg, project announcements of such caliber occur too infrequently. Although these projects generate multimillion-dollar capital investments and provide hundreds of jobs, they are not the most sustainable element for rural economic development.

“All of these organizations are doing amazing things, but we’re working in silos,” said Frieson. “My intention is to dismantle the silos and bring everyone together. I want to provide the best experience and a clear path to success, for small businesses in Williamsburg County.”



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About Williamsburg County Economic Development Board

The mission of Williamsburg County Economic Development Board is to improve the quality of life for Williamsburg County citizens, and to foster a favorable and desirable location for businesses. We will accomplish our mission by:

- Implementing business retention, business expansion, and business development strategies and programs
- Identifying workforce development opportunities through academia and employment agencies
- Conducting research to identify, target, and attract future industries and markets
- Cultivating partnerships with local, regional, state, and federal agencies to obtain economic, workforce, legal, and political resources to promote and sustain economic growth
- Establishing a reputable “brand” through coordinated marketing strategies

For more information about WCEDB, visit www.wcdevboard.com or [Facebook.com/WCDevBoard](https://www.facebook.com/WCDevBoard).

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