



Spartanburg Area



CHAMBER FOCUS

Economic Champions Luncheon Offers Opportunity To Meet Ten Outstanding Companies

The Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Futures Group have ten businesses to be recognized as Economic Champions at the 2011 Economic Champion Luncheon, presented by Wells Fargo Bank. The Awards Luncheon will be held from Noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Spartanburg Marriott in downtown Spartanburg on Friday, November 11th, 2011.

Departing from the format of the Economic Champion Luncheons of the past four years, this year's Luncheon will only celebrate 10 outstanding companies whose confidence and collective investments are providing a healthy economic climate for the Upstate.

This year's Economic Champions Are:

AMERICAN CREDIT ACCEPTANCE The

Corporate Headquarters for American Credit Acceptance in Spartanburg is a subprime automotive finance company that has quickly established itself as a lender of choice for deep subprime automobile lending needs in franchise and independent dealerships nationwide.

BMW MANUFACTURING CO. The Spartanburg location is the exclusive global manufacturing facility for all X3 and X5 Sports Activity Vehicles and the X6 Sports Activity Coupe.

DAA DRÄXLMAIER AUTOMOTIVE DAA Dräxlmaier Automotive of America is a supplier of electronic systems and components for upscale passenger cars and luxury sports cars.

EATON CORPORATION Eaton Corporation recently selected

its Duncan facility for a major expansion and solidified Spartanburg County as one of three key U.S. distribution centers to service both their international and domestic customers.

FEHRER Fehrer is an international developer and series supplier for the automobile industry, whose product range comprises of molded seat pads for car seats, arm rests, center consoles, side bolsters, headrests and inner trim panels as well as structural parts for cars.

FRIGOGLASS NORTH AMERICA LTD. Athens, Greece based Frigoglass selected Spartanburg for its first US manufacturing location and is a leading player in the design, manufacturing and marketing of ice-cold merchandisers (beverage coolers), and the production of glass containers

for the beverage industry.

HUNTINGTON FOAM LLC is a molder of polystyrene and polypropylene shapes for the appliance, furniture, consumer electronics and automotive industries. Using advanced computer modeling techniques with finite element analysis, Huntington Foam can specially design and test custom-made packaging for any client.

INDORAMA/AURIGA POLYMERS, INC. The Spartanburg, South Carolina facility produces polyester resins and polyester staple currently used in bottles for carbonated soft drinks, water, beer, juice, and wine; food and custom-container applications, and fibers and specialty polymers for a variety of applications.

MMS MEDICAL As one of the largest independent medical supply



distributors, MMS Medical prides itself in being a "Regional Distributor in a National Presence."

TMKG INC. TMKG Inc. recently opened a manufacturing facility in the City of Greer in Spartanburg County where it produces electric panels for conveyor systems.

"What a great opportunity to meet, and to thank, the companies which are raising the bar, making new investments, and building the future in Spartanburg County," says David Cordeau, President and CEO of the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce and Economic Futures Group. "If you want to

network with the people who are making things happen, this is the event to attend."

Tickets are \$30 each with tables of eight available for \$240. To register, visit the event calendar at www.spartanburgchamber.com or call Chris Shealy at (864)594-5014.

Sponsors include Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System (Gold) and Gosnell Menard Robinson Infante, CPAs, P.A. Sponsorship opportunities are still available-contact Yvonne Harper at (864)594-5032 for details.



Second Wednesday Every Month

NOVEMBER 9, 2011

Non-Verbal Communication

Featuring Guest Speaker:
DeLisa Dawkins
Spartanburg Regional

12:00pm-1:00pm
City Range Steakhouse
774 Spartan Blvd, Spartanburg

To register, visit the event calendar at spartanburgchamber.com.

Upcoming Chamber Events

2011 MED AWARDS
Levon Kirkland, Guest Speaker
Spartanburg Marriott
Tuesday, October 25th
5:30pm

BROWN BAG LUNCH
Information Security Risk Management
Spartanburg Chamber
Thursday, October 27th
12:00pm

Diversity CONNECTIONS
Non-Verbal Communication
City Range Steakhouse
Wednesday, November 9th
12:00pm

Economic Champions Luncheon
Spartanburg Marriott
Friday, November 11th
12:00pm

For more information on these and all Chamber events, visit spartanburgchamber.com.

Spartanburg Company Honored for "Taking the Pulse of Employees"

It's no secret. If you have satisfied employees, your business is likely to be more profitable. Managing your business culture can be difficult, but a Spartanburg-based company is streamlining the process with an innovative technology that's like using a stethoscope to take the virtual pulse of employees.

It's called SmartPulse and it's used to determine the emotional health of a workforce. SmartPulse is a series of advanced surveys managers use to diagnose underlying dissatisfaction that often leads to burnout, drops in productivity and turnover.

SmartPulse is being recognized as finalist this year in the "Small Enterprise" category of the InnoVision Technology Awards. It helps organizations quickly identify issues, where they lie and how to solve them.

SmartPulse Co-Founder, Ingo Angermeier, says Spartanburg Regional Healthcare used his surveys to help reduce its turnover rate and saved \$15 million dollars in the process.

Angermeier and his colleagues had been working on SmartPulse for 30 years and it just so happened that he was CEO of Spartanburg Regional Healthcare when his high-tech system of employee surveys became automated. Angermeier says Spartanburg Regional was experiencing a 24% turnover rate at that time. Management wanted to keep that number below 12%.

SmartPulse Co-Founder Jeff Berline says, "We were able to slice through the SmartPulse data and pinpoint the exact problem." He says they identified nine Hispanic nurses who were 95% likely to quit.

Through the surveys, managers learned that most

Hispanic nurses also had spouses working at the hospital. Since most of those couples use the hospital daycare for childcare, one parent would have to get off work by the time the daycare closed. So by extending daycare hours, the hospital was able to reduce overall turnover, which at one point after the study was below 4%.

Angermeier says SmartPulse saved 154 nurses that year, a cost savings of over \$15 million in labor replacement cost.

Within a matter of seconds after employees complete the survey, managers have a wealth of highly searchable data that is only a mouse click away. Traditional surveys can take weeks or months to produce results.

Angermeier says, "Unlike a report card that shows you where you are or twice a year, this shows you how you're doing at

any point in time."

SmartPulse was originally launched for hospital systems, but in April was adapted to assist almost any type of business or organization in managing cultural climate. Since then, the company has received more than 200-million requests by managers worldwide for the system.

InnoVision is a non-profit organization that for the past 13 years has recognized innovative businesses, services and products in the Upstate and now the Midlands region of South Carolina.

The 2011 InnoVision Technology Awards winners will be announced during the annual awards dinner being held at the TD Center in Greenville, November 16th.

For more information about SmartPulse, visit their web site at www.smartpulse.com.