

OPPORTUNITY IS HERE

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# SC Promise Zone Update

The South Carolina Promise Zone (PZ) started the summer with a new Promise Zone Coordinator on assignment from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS). Sandra DeVoe Bland, Chemical Engineer and Barnwell native, took over the reins from Dean Van Pelt who served as the first SC Promise Zone Coordinator, also on assignment from SRNS. The South Carolina Promise Zone received notice of its designation in April of 2015. The first year of designation was spent meeting with community stakeholders in each of the six counties included in the Promise Zone designation. These six counties are Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper. These "Town Hall" meetings captured the vision and ideas of local residents. Information gathered at these town hall meetings serve as foundational material on which to base future objectives for the area. Networking and relationships have been established and grants have been endorsed as time has progressed. One of the primary duties of the SC Promise Zone Coordinator is to endorse grant applications that are written by PZ constituents in order to enhance priority consideration by funders. Other events and accomplishments that have transpired are shared on the next page.



Entrepreneurship Training Workshop Fall 2017



## Accomplishments

Grant applications reviewed and endorsement letters written

Hosted 2 1/2 day conference facilitated by Partnership for Public Service to strengthen collaborative partnerships

Hosted Promise Zone Team Member monthly meetings

Work group activation

Promise Zone promotion to small business owners

Participation in Neighbor Works America's Community Leadership Institute

SC PZ Coordinator guest lecturer at Clemson University

Hosted Broadband Initiative Session featuring FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Promise Zone overview presented to 10 Americorps volunteers

Participated in Allendale-Fairfax High School discussion on SAT/ACT Prep program

Collaboration with Barnwell County Chamber of Commerce

Facilitated connection between Bamberg County Family Practice and USDA grants

Collaborated with Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization to develop and submit US2020 STEM Coalition Challenge

Small Business Information session hosted to share How to do Business with Savannah River Site

Co-Hosted grant writing workshop at Voorhees College

Americorps VISTA documentation of Workforce Development Resources in the PZ

SC Promise Zone Coordinator presented at Rural Conference

Participated in Rural Resource Coalition Annual Meeting

Hosted Entrepreneur Bootcamp

Hosted Education and Workforce Development work group formation sessions

Facilitated and coached Blackville Team's Save the Children/STRIVE grant application

Collaborated with Department of Education consultants for 2018 Needs Forecast

Participation in SC House of Representatives Early Childhood and Family Support Roundtable

SC PZ Coordinator guest speaker at Voorhees Career Pathways Initiative Program



PROMISE ZONE TEAM MEETING UPDATES

The Promise Zone (PZ) and Clemson University Community Sociology Classes are collaborating to develop activities in the PZ related to Eco-tourism and Schools as Community Centers.

Local industries are seeking to hire from within the Promise Zone.

Current PZ Workgroup foci is on Education and Workforce Development.

PZ coordinator and partners participated in US 2020 STEM Coalition Challenge collaboration for mentoring on behalf of the Allendale Public School System.

A STRIVE and Save the Children grant that addresses prenatal through grade 3 development is in the final round of application.

A community "Kick Start Your Job Search" event was held in February at the Barnwell Library to share information related to job skills, WorkKeys, resume building and interview skills.

Opportunity Zones: The Governor of South Carolina has designated at least one census tract in each county in the Promise Zone as an Opportunity Zone. This designation is a new community development program established by Congress in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 to encourage long-term investments in low-income urban and rural communities nationwide.

Promise Zone coordinators from across the nation met with the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Housing, and Senators in Washington DC to discuss PZ initiatives and stance of current administration toward PZs.

FCC Commissioner Clyburn attended PZ meeting in Barnwell where Jim Stritzinger, ConnectSC, reported results of an exploration of Broadband use in SC.



Federal Communications Commissioner Mignon L. Clyburn

PROMISE ZONE FAST FACTS

Counties in the Promise Zone:  
 Allendale  
 Bamberg  
 Barnwell  
 Colleton  
 Hampton  
 Jasper

Population by census tract: 85K to 90K

Unemployment by census tract: 11.3%

Poverty rate by census tract: 23.6%

(2012-2016 ACS 5yr est.)



Photos from Promise Zone Broadband Report Meeting



FEATURED PROMISE ZONE PARTNER

SC Department of Commerce

Regional Education Advisors (REAs)

-SC's resource for creating a workforce for the future  
-bridge gaps at the local level between those who educate our students and those in the business community that rely on a talented labor pool.

For more information go to:

<https://www.sccommerce.com/why-south-carolina/workforce-and-education/regional-workforce-advisors>

Our REA for Barnwell, Bamberg, and Allendale counties in the PZ:

Joni McDaniel  
803 378 9510  
[jmcdaniel@sccommerce.com](mailto:jmcdaniel@sccommerce.com)

Our REA for Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties in the PZ:

Kim Statler  
843 5922405  
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Nate Diakun, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions



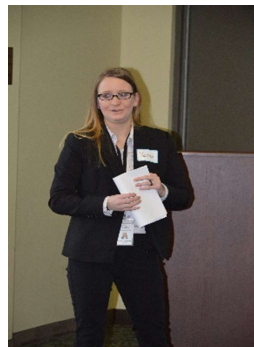
Robert Crenshaw, Ready SC



Sarah Walker, Orchids Paper



Joye Hallman, Adult Education



Rachel Dersham, Crane Merchandising Systems

Photos from "Kick Start your Job Search" Event



Savannah River Site Representatives



Sally Sharpe, SC Works

Photos from "Kick Start Your Job Search" event at Barnwell County Library. Participants included SC Department of Commerce, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, SC Promise Zone, Lower Savannah Council of Governments, Adult Education, and SC Works.

