



News Release

June 21, 2024
Release Number: 4855

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2024 Tri-County STEMersion Empowers Educators, Strengthens Industry Connections, and Fuels Future Workforce

[Tri-County STEMersion](#), the leading professional development institute for educators and counselors in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties, achieved record-breaking participation, sponsorship, and industry engagement during the week of June 17, 2024. Visionary sponsors – Google, SC Power:Ed, Bosch, and Norfolk Southern – provided pivotal support.

Tri-County STEMersion offered a unique, hands-on professional development experience for primary and secondary educators and counselors. An organizing committee of local economic developers collaborated with local school districts to orchestrate the annual institute. Participants directly engaged with local industries, gaining firsthand insights from top employers in the region. The program boasted a wide range of activities, including industry tours, immersive workplace experiences, collaborative lesson-planning forums, and insightful expert panel discussions.

This year's record-shattering participation highlighted the program's growing impact. Over 120 educators and counselors across the Tri-County area attended – more than double the number from previous years. The program fostered a collaborative environment, bringing educators, counselors, and industry leaders together to prepare students for success. These dedicated professionals not only developed innovative, industry-inspired lessons for their students, but also gained valuable skills in grant writing, drone technology, and integrating cutting-edge technologies like AI into their classrooms. This deeper industry connection will equip their students with the essential skills to thrive in the competitive global workforce.

During the institute, educators created innovative, industry-inspired lessons and projects, while counselors developed inventive ways to integrate industry-specific guidance. All deliverables were designed for seamless integration into South Carolina's K-12 curriculum. This "train-the-trainer" approach had a multiplier effect, significantly amplifying the impact of economic partnerships. Educators and counselors participating in Tri-County STEMersion became vital intermediaries between industry and the classroom. Their involvement enriched the educational experience for their students and contributed to building a skilled future workforce for the region. The record-breaking enrollment and industry support solidified Tri-County STEMersion's vital role in shaping a skilled and competitive workforce for the future.

“Berkeley County Economic Development was honored to again collaborate on this unique initiative. By uniting around a central conversation on workforce—and its demand for workers with the appropriate math, science and soft skills— our region’s Educators and Guidance Counselors can better brainstorm the best ways to expand students’ potential and prepare them for not just quality career opportunities but also life beyond the classroom. In recent years, this Tri-County partnership has proven exceedingly successful for all involved, helping meet the needs of industries, teachers, and the next generation.” – **Corey McClary, Workforce Development Manager at Berkeley County Economic Development**

“Charleston County is thrilled to once again partner in Tri-County STEMersion. A skilled workforce is more critical than ever to attract and retain the businesses that fuel our prosperity. By directly connecting classroom

learning to the needs of our thriving local industries, we're building a sustainable talent pipeline that enhances our regional economy and ensures its continued success for the Charleston region.” – **Ashley Richardson, Senior Director of Strategy and Communications at Charleston County Economic Development**

“Tri-County STEMersion is crucial in bridging the gap between education and industry, providing educators with hands-on experiences that align academic learning with real-world applications. This synergy fosters a skilled workforce ready to meet the demands of an ever-evolving technological landscape.” – **Michelle McDonald, Deputy Director at Dorchester County Economic Development**

About Charleston County Economic Development

For over three decades, Charleston County Economic Development Department has been dedicated to establishing and maintaining business relationships with new and existing industries to preserve the Charleston area's exceptional business climate and quality of life. To learn more about Charleston County Economic Development, visit www.charlestoncountydevelopment.org.

About Tri-County STEMersion

Tri-County STEMersion is a collaborative effort by Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties to bridge education with existing industry needs by developing coursework and skills to implement into classrooms, creating a pipeline directly into the local workforce. The unique hands-on institute for middle and high school educators and counselors introduces real-world workplace demands through on-site visits and activities designed to reinforce necessary math, science, and soft skills needed to succeed in different industry professions. For more information on the 2024 STEMersion institute, visit tricitystemersion.com.

In keeping with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), those needing assistance should contact Charleston County at (843) 202-6917 during regular business hours.

For information on Charleston County Government news and services, please visit www.charlestoncounty.org.

