



# COLLETON COUNTY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

ANNUAL REPORT  
2025-2026  
[choosecolleton.com](https://choosecolleton.com)



*Forging Ahead*

Raising a flag to America's 250  
Valley Forge — Smoaks, SC



# *Table of Contents*

1. Letter from the Director
2. Leadership and Staff
3. Project Pipeline
4. Growth
5. Announcements
6. Grants and Project Development
7. Birdies at the Beach
8. Ace Basin Investment Program
9. In the Media

# From the Director

Transitional. Transformational.

When searching for adjectives to describe the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the Colleton County Economic Alliance, those two descriptors quickly rose to the top of the list.

Much of the work done in the last year has been forward focused. We continue to modernize our economic development program, building a solid foundation for our organization and Colleton County's future. Site development and enhancement is our lifeblood. Without a compelling portfolio of shovel-ready product, Colleton County cannot compete against neighboring states and regions for capital investment and jobs. Hence, we've spent much of the last year investing in sites. None of this would have been possible without our trusted partners at the S.C. Department of Commerce, the S.C. Powerteam, Coastal Electric Cooperative, Dominion Energy and Santee Cooper. All in all, the CCEA has obtained more than \$6 Million in grant funds earmarked to acquire and improve industrial sites throughout the county.

The CCEA launched its first-ever private fundraising campaign this past January, setting an ambitious goal to raise \$100,000. Our private sector partners answered the call. I am happy to report we exceeded that goal with more than \$120,000 raised to support economic development here in Colleton County. And those funds are already being put to work for additional product, prospect and workforce development in addition to expanded marketing efforts.

The success of our initial campaign speaks volumes. More than 80 percent of our total contributions came from outside the county. That indicates the private sector aligns with our own belief ... Colleton's best days are ahead of us.

Along the way, we welcomed four new companies to our local economy. The summer saw Heidelberg Materials and Banks Construction take roots in Colleton, while we experienced the arrival of QMP Inc. and T&T Precast this past fall.

All four companies are either in operations already or beginning operations later this year, speaking to our county's business-friendly climate and emphasis on speed to market.

The four announcements represented a combined investment of 272 jobs and \$26.1 Million in capital investment.

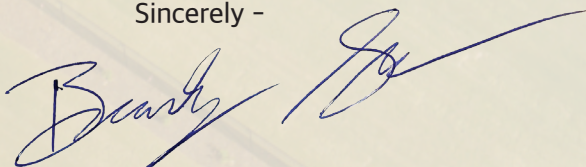
Today, we launch our new website, a cutting-edge presentation that will further market Colleton County to the world. Please check out our work at [ChooseColleton.com](http://ChooseColleton.com).

Momentum is building.

With our county leadership firmly behind our efforts and partners engaged throughout the state, we embrace the growth that is to come.

Our staff may not be big in numbers, but we will continue to work tirelessly to create a better future for the citizens of Colleton County.

Sincerely -



# COLLETON COUNTY *Economic Alliance*

## BOARD MEMBERS

Utilities

**Mark Walling**  
Chairman  
Coastal Electric Cooperative

Education

**April Cone**  
University of South Carolina  
Salkehatchie

Colleton County  
Council

**Thomas Higgs**  
County Administrator

Utilities

**Blakely Williams**  
Dominion Energy

Utilities

**Joel Braun**  
Palmetto Rural  
Telephone Cooperative

Municipality

**James Broderick**  
Mayor  
City of Walterboro

Education

**Jessica F. Williams**  
Colleton County  
School District

Colleton County  
Resource & Development

**Jim Bryan**  
Retired

Small Business

**Robert Mixon**  
Todd Land Agency

Existing Industry

**Roy McSwain**  
Pioneer Boats

Finance

**Lee Petrolawicz**  
South State Bank

Chamber of Commerce

**Krista Massey**  
Colleton Chamber of Commerce

Small General Contractor

**Keane Steele**  
Bastion Group

Large General Contractor

**Jamie Shipman**  
Frampton Construction

Industry Partner

**Keith Wayne**  
Wayne Brothers Companies

Architecture

**David Ramey**  
LS3P

Engineering

**Paul Peebles**  
Seamon Whiteside



**Brantley Strickland, SCCED**  
**Executive Director**  
M: 843-909-0199  
E: bstrickland@cceainc.com

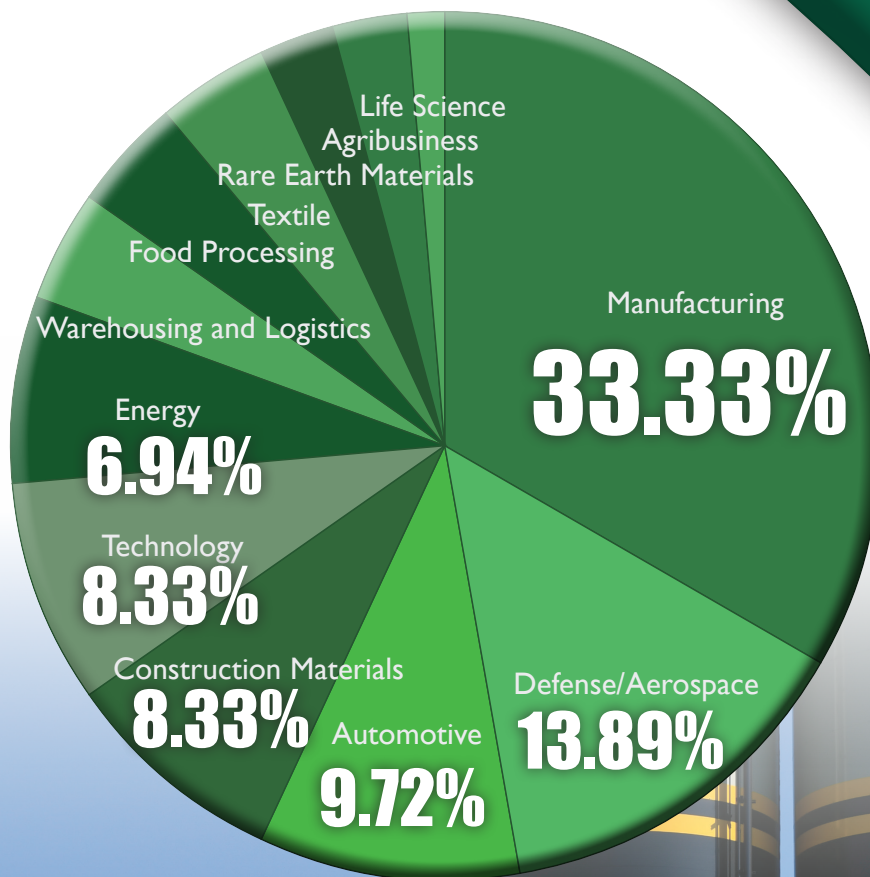
## *Our Team*



**Donna Lamb**  
**Project Manager**  
M: 843-893-8382  
E: dlamb@cceainc.com

# Project PIPELINE

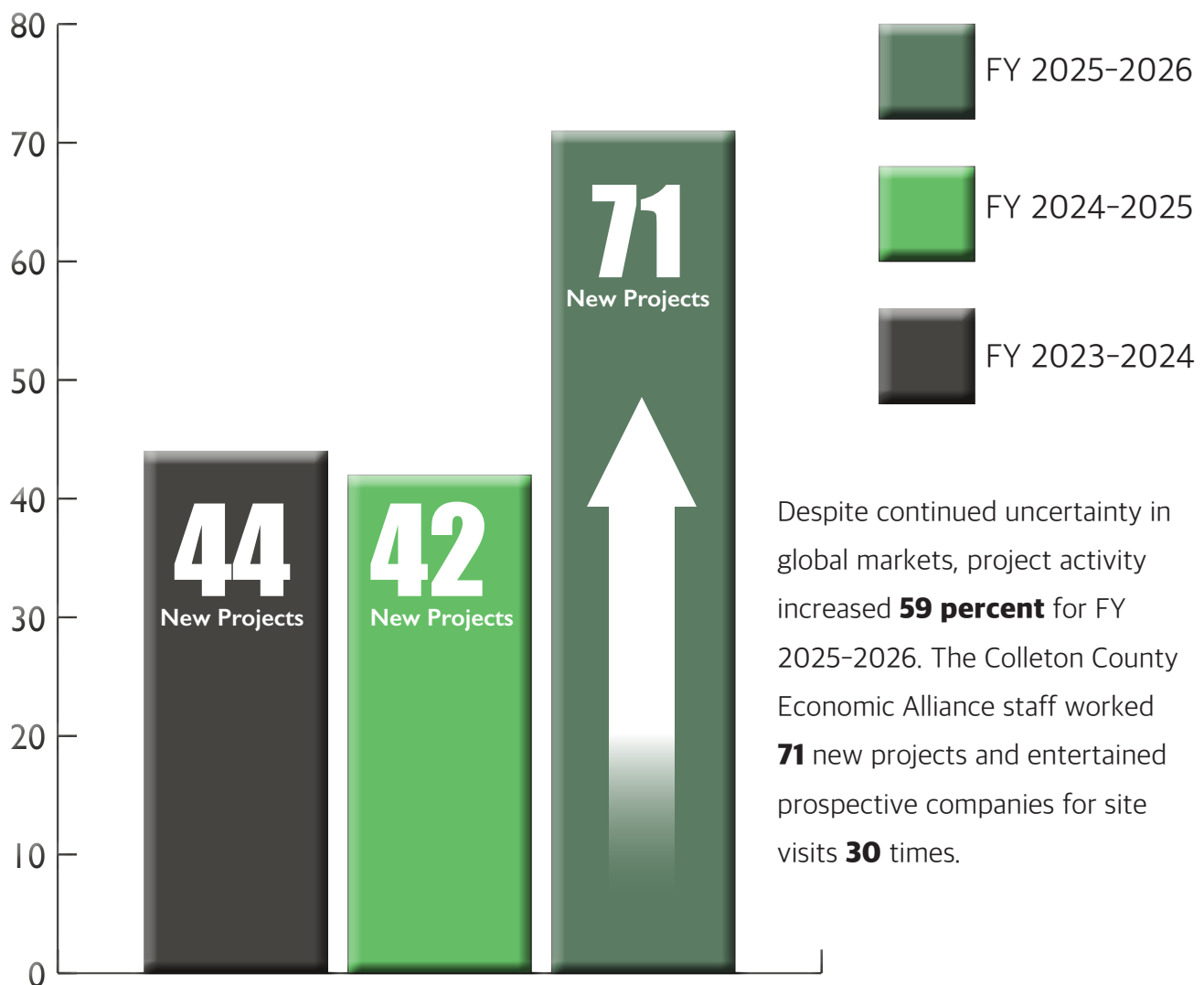
Activity was diverse, stretching across multiple industries. However, CCEA saw the emergence of technology sector inquiries and continued strong growth in construction materials.



|        |                           |
|--------|---------------------------|
| 1.39%  | Life Science              |
| 2.78%  | Agribusiness              |
| 2.78%  | Rare Earth Materials      |
| 4.17%  | Textile                   |
| 4.17%  | Food Processing           |
| 4.17%  | Warehousing and Logistics |
| 6.94%  | Energy                    |
| 8.33%  | Technology                |
| 8.33%  | Construction Materials    |
| 9.72%  | Automotive                |
| 13.89% | Defense/Aerospace         |
| 33.33% | Manufacturing             |

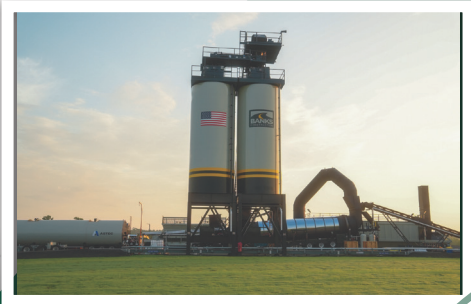


# Strong GROWTH



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

|                                                                                                           | INVESTMENT        | JOB         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
|                          | \$5.1<br>MILLION  | 233<br>JOBS |
|  Heidelberg<br>Materials | \$7.3<br>MILLION  | 8<br>JOBS   |
|                          | \$11.7<br>MILLION | 20<br>JOBS  |
|                         | \$2<br>MILLION    | 11<br>JOBS  |
| <i>Totals</i>                                                                                             | \$26.1<br>MILLION | 272<br>JOBS |



# \$6,506,564.60

## IN GRANT FUNDING

Forging strong partnerships with stakeholders is critical to the economic development process, particularly in rural communities. This year, the CCEA was successful in securing more than \$6.5M in grant funding. All but \$10,000 of that total has been applied to site development and site readiness in order to maintain and enhance Colleton's diverse offerings of shovel-ready industrial product.



OF GRANT FUNDS  
DEDICATED TO  
SHOVEL- READY  
PRODUCT

## PRODUCT *Development*

With speed to market and availability of industrial property crucial to companies making location decisions, the CCEA has emphasized product development over the last fiscal year. Four different industrial parks are currently undergoing due diligence updates through the state's Palmetto Sites program and at the beginning of the fiscal year, CCEA acquired an additional 600 acres at the Colleton Megasite after a long-time option reached expiration. Now at 1441 acres, it is among the most viable Megasites in the country.

# 1,441 ACRES

# COLLETON MEGASITE

# BIRDIES AT THE Beach



## Title Sponsors WAYNE BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION

Our inaugural Birdies at the Beach Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament was a rousing success. The Plantation Course at Edisto Beach and Pros and Cons restaurant served as a great host for a sold-out field of 76 golfers. Banks Construction took home the win in the event, which concluded with a reception. Proceeds from the event will be used to fund CCEA scholarships for Colleton County students attending USC Salkehatchie and the Technical College of the Lowcountry. Be on the lookout for registration and sponsorship information for Birdies at the Beach II set for March 4, 2027.



*SC Power Team*



*Landmark Construction Team*



# ACE BASIN

## INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The CCEA launched an unprecedented fundraising campaign in January, setting an ambitious goal to raise \$100,000 to assist in prospect development, product development, marketing and lead generation and workforce development. Twenty-five private sector partners successfully surpassed our goal with \$120,000 raised.

### ACE BASIN



### ASHEPOO



### COMBAHEE



### EDISTO



# IN THE MEDIA

## *Making Headlines Across Print, Digital, Broadcast & Online*

The CCEA made telling Colleton County's story a top priority this year, highlighted by numerous media appearances in the Charleston television market. Executive Director Brantley Strickland also embarked on an education series featured in the (Walterboro) Press & Standard via a monthly column detailing the economic development process. CCEA ended the fiscal year full steam ahead toward the launch of a new cutting edge website, ChooseColleton.com

South Carolina Economic Developers Association  
June 19, 2025

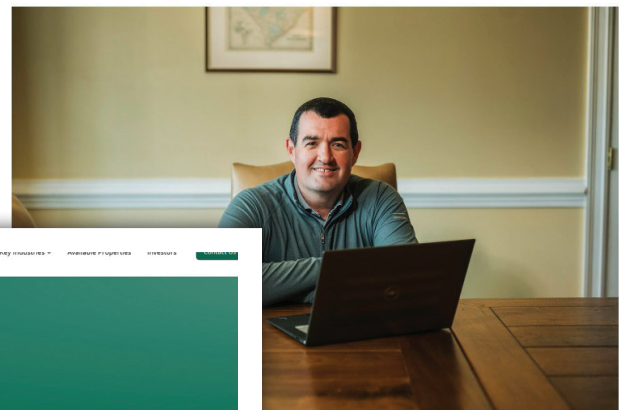
Congratulations are in order for SCEDA's 2025 Rising Star, Brantley Strickland, Director of the Colleton County Economic Alliance! The SCEDA Rising Star Award is presented to a member in appetite for excellence and an aptitude for learning new skills during a short tenure. A lifelong Colletonian, Brantley joined CCEA in late April and has already made his mark.

### 2025 RISING STAR



### Economic Development from the Desk of Brantley Strickland

What's economic development and why should we do it?



COLLETON COUNTY  
ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

### Why Colleton County

Faster to market, lower cost, and strategically positioned between two of the Southeast's most active port cities, with the intermodal infrastructure to prove it.

|                                                             |                                                              |                                                                        |                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Speed to market<br>5 weeks in 12 months - Same day response | Exceptional value<br>2,000+ pad-ready acres - Publicly owned | Strategic location<br>40 mi to Charleston & Savannah - 5 exits on I-95 | Partnership-driven<br>A partner for the life of your operation |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|

From your first call to ribbon-cutting,  
we're faster than any neighboring market

