

**Leadership Aiken
County Class
of 2011 – 2012**

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**LEADERSHIP AIKEN COUNTY
GREAT IDEA ENDOWMENT**



Spring 2012

Dear Friend,

We are excited to announce the 2011-2012 Leadership Aiken County group project: **The Leadership Aiken County Great Ideas Educational Endowment.**

We have a **Great Idea**, and we need your help! Leadership Aiken County recognizes that children and young people are one of the greatest assets of our community, AND an investment in their education is an investment in the future of Aiken County. But current economic conditions and resulting budget cuts have been detrimental to local educational opportunities and programs. Often educators say that they have great ideas – if only they could implement them or extend them to more students.

So this year's Leadership Aiken County Class has chosen to answer this challenge. **Our goal is to raise \$25,000 to establish the Leadership Aiken County Great Ideas Endowment Fund which will provide grants of up to \$500 to teachers with "Great Ideas" as well as fund the college dreams of talented students.** In order to do this, we have chosen to partner with Public Education Partners (PEP) and Aiken Technical College (ATC). Through PEP, we hope to create an endowment that will fund our teachers' Great Ideas in the classroom, from Kindergarten through High School, bringing to life the creative ideas of those who inspire our children. In order to develop the future leaders and workforce for business and industry in Aiken County, the focus of these grants will be in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) as well as for education opportunities that strengthen the leadership abilities of the students in our communities. Additionally through ATC's Pre-Engineering Program, we will fund scholarships for high school students interested in pursuing a degree in the engineering field, bridging the gap between high school and post-secondary education for students who would likely not have the opportunity without the generous donations of individuals like yourself.

How can you help? By providing your tax deductible donation designated to the Leadership Aiken County Great Ideas Endowment fund and investing in the education experience of our students and dedicated teachers in our community. Whether you make a one-time donation or provide a recurring donation to ensure future resources, all donations will be **investing in a better educated workforce for Aiken County and for your organization.**

More detailed information about the Great Ideas program and the ATC Pre-Engineering Program is enclosed in this application package. Make YOUR investment in Aiken County today!

Sincerely,

Leadership Aiken County 2011- 2012

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO INVEST IN AIKEN COUNTY...

and we're not the only ones who see it! Advanced Manufacturing is growing exponentially, and 2011 was the largest investment year in our history with Bridgestone Americas' announcement that they would be spending \$2B to expand their facilities here—the largest in South Carolina's and their history. But that's not all. Just look at the major presence multi-national technical companies have chosen to have here:

- Investment of \$45 million by MTU to create a new production facility
- Kimberly Clark's largest manufacturing facility in North America
- Manufacturing sector employing over 20,000 in our area
- Nuclear jobs expected to grow by over 3,000 jobs by 2020.



But the only way our community can continue to support this growth is if we have the educated workforce ready to step into those career opportunities. And that's where you come in!

YOUR DONATION WILL FUND...

- Grants for secondary education teachers to encourage the study of science, math, engineering and technology (STEM) creating job opportunities for these future business leaders.
- Engineering scholarships to Aiken Technical College so that the CSRA's brightest can get a head start on their engineering degrees and thereby enter the workforce that much faster.



INVEST IN TOMORROW'S LEADERS

TODAY with your donation. Simply fill-out the form below and send in your donation to the featured address. Thank you for making more Great Ideas a reality in the CSRA!



LEADERSHIP AIKEN COUNTY GREAT IDEAS ENDOWMENT FUND



YES! I want to invest in Aiken County's educated workforce of tomorrow. Enclosed is my donation of

- \$25
 \$50
 \$100
 \$250
 \$1,000
 Other \$ _____
 Please contact me about an ongoing contribution.

NAME: _____ PHONE: () _____

ORGANIZATION: _____ LAC CLASS OF _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ EMAIL: _____

Thank you for your tax deductible donation to the Leadership Aiken County Great Ideas Endowment!

Please send this contribution form with your donation to LAC Great Ideas Endowment, c/o Bob Bigger, PO Box 3686, Aiken, SC 29802. Checks should be made out to **Leadership Aiken County**.

Leadership Aiken County is a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.