



Donor Spotlight: Fairfield County



Pictured from l to r: Dr. Kaye Shaw, Holly Cummings, Dr. Phil Flynn, Phil Hinely, Kamau Marcharia, Mary Lynn Kinley, Robert Sharpe and Steve Benjamin

For years MEBA has been carrying out important programs and services in **Fairfield, Lexington and Richland** Counties. MEBA is pleased to report that its partnership with **Fairfield County** is thriving. MEBA has recently been recommended to receive a second contribution from Fairfield County, potentially bringing Fairfield's support total to \$10,000. MEBA received its first contribution of \$5,000 from Fairfield County for the 2006 - 2007 fiscal year. "These types of contributions are extremely important to MEBA as we are in our infancy stage as a nonprofit," emphasizes **Holly Cummings**, Community Development Director for MEBA. "We are striving to gain support from all three counties we serve and want to commend Fairfield County for being one of the first counties to step forward to show their support. This type of support will give MEBA the leverage it needs as we move forward in seeking other private, public, state and federal funding."

Phil Hinely, Fairfield County Administrator; **Mary Lynn Kinley**, Public Relations Director for Fairfield Memorial Hospital, Fairfield County Council member and MEBA board member; **Kamau Marcharia**, Fairfield County Council member; **Robert Sharpe**, Principal of the Fairfield Career and Technology Center; and **Dr. Phil Flynn** with the Fairfield County Schools, all attended MEBA's January board meeting to present MEBA with the financial contribution. "I have been impressed with the variety of opportunities that MEBA provides to so many young people on a tri-county basis," says **Councilman Marcharia**. "Fairfield County is always looking for ways to boost the economy, create better jobs, and offer educational opportunities to our students. MEBA's work does just that, and we are pleased to support its efforts in our community."

Phil Hinely, Fairfield County Administrator; **Mary Lynn Kinley**, Public Relations Director for Fairfield Memorial Hospital, Fairfield County Council member and MEBA board member; **Kamau Marcharia**, Fairfield County Council member; **Robert Sharpe**, Principal of the Fairfield Career and Technology Center; and **Dr. Phil Flynn** with the Fairfield County Schools, all attended MEBA's January board meeting to present MEBA with the financial contribution. "I have been impressed with the variety of opportunities that MEBA provides to so many young people on a tri-county basis," says **Councilman Marcharia**. "Fairfield County is always looking for ways to boost the economy, create better jobs, and offer educational opportunities to our students. MEBA's work does just that, and we are pleased to support its efforts in our community."

MEBA's work in Fairfield County includes providing monthly *Your Child Is Job #1* workshops to an average of 2000 community residents

Upcoming Events

Engineering & Industrial Technology Alliance

May 8, 2007, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Midlands Technical College
Airport Campus, AC 115

MEBA Executive Committee

May 11, 2007, 7:45 - 9:15 am
NAI Avant

Health Sciences & Human Services Alliance

May 16, 2007, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Midlands Technical College
Northeast Campus, Room 328

Manufacturing & Industrial Maintenance Alliance

May 24, 2007, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Location TBD



Midlands Educators Participate in Manufacturing & Industrial Maintenance Field Study

On March 21, 2007, **MEBA's Manufacturing & Industrial Maintenance Alliance** hosted a **Manufacturing & Industrial Maintenance Field Study** for more than 50 local educators. The event allowed participants to spend a day visiting area businesses to learn firsthand from industry professionals and provided an inside look at the world of manufacturing and industrial maintenance.

"This field study is an excellent way for me to learn what truly goes on inside these facilities," explained **Joyce Simons**, a career specialist at **Dent Middle School in Richland School District Two**. "My students ask a lot of questions about careers in manufacturing and engineering, and this gives me the chance to gain firsthand knowledge to better answer their questions. The business contacts I am able to establish at these field studies are invaluable and help me to better connect my students to their future pursuits."



Greg Lee, Midlands Technical College, and Steve Vincent, Richland School District One, tour Siemens' facility.

The field study began at **Siemens Diesel Systems Technology** with refreshments provided by Siemens Diesel Systems Technology and a welcome by **Lisa Call**, MEBA's Interim Executive Director/Workforce Development Director and Career Specialist.

Ron Ellis, Siemens' Human Resources

Director, spoke to the group about career opportunities and led participants on a tour of the facility.

The group then traveled to **Tyson Prepared Foods** where they met with **Joanne Kightlinger**, Plant Manager, and **Tiffaney Conrad**, Human Resources Director, to learn

about the company and the various careers available. Participants were then able to take a tour to see what takes place behind the scenes at one of the country's largest foodservice companies.

The group then boarded a bus and headed to **South Carolina Electric & Gas's Pine Island Club on Lake Murray**.

At Pine Island, the group was treated to a lunch sponsored by SCE&G and learned about the company's career opportunities from **Randy Fabry**, Training Manager of SCE&G's Fossil/Hydro Division. Fabry then led the group on a bus tour of the **Dreher Shoals Dam** at Lake Murray, which provides energy to the company's Saluda Hydroelectric Plant and the McMeekin Steam Generating Plant.



Midlands educators tour Dreher Shoals Dam at Lake Murray.

After Pine Island, participants visited **PBR Columbia's Production Facility**. PBR, a subsidiary of Pacifica Group Ltd, is a leading supplier of brake system technology. **Wanda Herron**, PBR Columbia's Human Resources Manager, and **Anthony White**, PBR Columbia's Training Coordinator, spoke to the group about the company and shared information on its careers. The group made a final stop at the **Solectron USA, Inc.**, a leading global provider of electronics manufacturing services and integrate supply chain solutions, where **John Petta**, Plant Manager, and **Tracy West**, Solectron's Human Resources Director, discussed career skills, job opportunities and led a tour of the facility.

Want to know more about MEBA's programs and activities?

Check out our website at www.mebasc.com.

State Deputy Superintendent of Education Addresses MEBA Board Meeting Attendees

MEBA board members and invited guests from institutes of higher education throughout the Midlands gathered for MEBA's April board meeting on April 27, 2007, at Midlands Technical College Airport Campus. Staff and board members from the Midlands Regional Education Center also attended the meeting as special guests.



Deputy Superintendent Mark Bounds addresses MEBA board meeting attendees.

The meeting provided the opportunity for attendees to learn about State Superintendent of Education **Jim Rex's** plan for reforming, supporting and improving our public schools - "South Carolina's Covenant with Our Children." **Dr. Mark Bounds**, Deputy Superintendent for Educator Quality and Leadership, outlined the agency's plan and responded to questions from the group. The plan includes five key points for achieving the agency's mission: 1) Create a fair and equitable funding system; 2)

Reform accountability; 3) Elevate and reinvigorate the teaching profession; 4) Accelerate innovation; and 5) Increase public school choice.

"I believe it is every child's birthright to a good education," said Bounds. "It is our duty as South Carolinians to support public schools and to work together to ensure success for all students." Bounds provided statistics and outlined current and future initiatives designed to advance the agency's goals.

Meeting attendees were also able to hear from MEBA staff members **Lisa Call, Stacey Westberry** and **Kay Barlow** about the progress of MEBA's initiatives and how we are continuing to achieve our mission to connect students, parents, educators and business leaders to promote a stronger workforce and community.



Rick Wheeler, The Loxcreen Company, and Keely Saye, Innovista, at MEBA's April board meeting.

Sign Up Now for the Teachers in the Workplace Summer Program

You can still sign up to become a part of the Teachers in the Workplace summer course! To take part in this exciting and educational program or for more information, please contact Linda Whitaker at lwhitaker@mebasc.com or by calling 803-252-2895. You can also download the course registration form by visiting MEBA's website at www.mebasc.com. Click on the "Educators" button and then select "Professional Development" from the drop down menu.

The Teachers in the Workplace program provides an opportunity for teachers of Central Midlands to connect with the world of work outside the classroom. This internship offers teachers 40 hours of direct contact on a business site. Upon completion, the teacher intern will earn three hours of graduate credit at Coastal Carolina University. This will be a non-paid activity for the teacher.

We are also still recruiting Midlands businesses to intern the educators in 2007. If your business is interested in participating, please contact Lisa Call at lcall@mebasc.com or by phone at 803-822-3776.

Faces of MEBA -- Ron Ellis

As the Director of Human Resources for **Siemens Diesel Systems Technology, LLC**, **Ron Ellis** knows firsthand the importance of having a qualified workforce, and he credits MEBA with helping his company establish a strong connection with local educators that ensures the success of its workforce.



"At Siemens we are always looking for new and effective ways to connect with students and educators," says Ellis. "MEBA opens doors to us that allow us to partner with schools and students to get them interested in the careers we have available and to educate them about the skills and characteristics qualified candidates need."

Siemens Diesel Systems Technology, LLC, a leading international supplier of automotive electronics and mechatronics, is a joint venture company that also includes **International Truck**. It was at International Truck that Ellis began his career working as a line operator more than 36 years ago. Ellis started his career as a production worker on the assembly line and as an assembly stockman before being promoted to line supervisor. After just five years and after receiving relative training and certification, Ellis was again promoted to Supplier Development Engineer. "The company gave me all of the training and educational opportunities I needed to be successful and to move forward in my career," explains Ellis. "That is why I know it so important to help students understand their educational goals and how these goals directly impact their futures."

After several years, Ellis began working in the company's human resources department as a Senior Human Resources Generalist and eventually became Siemens' Human Resources Director. "I wanted to work in human resources because I love working with people," says Ellis. "I like the process of growing a business and working as a liaison between the company and educational systems. It is important that we work with students and help open their minds to the careers we have here at Siemens. That work directly impacts our company's overall success."

Ellis has been actively involved with MEBA for several years, serving as a member of the Executive Committee of MEBA's Board of Directors and as a member of the Manufacturing & Industrial Maintenance Alliance. Ellis and Siemens Diesel Systems Technology are active partners in MEBA's field studies, job shadowing activities and Teachers in the Workplace program.

See **Ellis** Page 7

Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals Announces New Summer Programs

Sisters of Charity Providence

Hospitals is proud to launch two new education programs designed to let Midlands students experience the health-care profession first hand. Through clinical rotations and instructional time, students will be exposed to life in a hospital and provided an opportunity to consider a career in healthcare as part of their future.

Camp Med is a two-day career exploration for rising 7th and 8th graders. Camp Med will be in session June 14-15, 2007, from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm and has a \$15 registration fee.

Pursuit is a three-week career internship program for rising high school juniors and seniors. Students will receive a small stipend upon completion of the program. Pursuit will take place July 9-27, 2007, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm.

For information, please contact Workplace Development in Human Resources at (803) 256-5817. To access the application form online, visit the Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals website at ww.providencehospitals.com and click on "Careers and Volunteering" and then "Student Opportunities."

Quick Byte

◆ Dr. Kaye Shaw was recently named coordinator of the Midlands Regional Education Center. Dr. Shaw's new office is located at Midlands Technical College Airport Campus. You can contact Shaw by mail at PO Box 2408, Columbia, SC 29202. Phone: 803-822-3306. Fax: 803-822-3585. E-mail: kshaw@scpathways.org.

Your Child Is Job #1: Childhood Obesity

Each month, MEBA's **Kay Barlow** spends countless hours meeting with parents at their place of work to share information and tools designed to help parents more effectively support their child's academic and career goals. Throughout the months of March and April, Barlow addressed the important topic of childhood obesity.

Since 1980 the percentage of overweight children has doubled, and the percentage of overweight adolescents has tripled. This increase translates into a rise in the number of children with high blood pressure and high cholesterol. And, while the health risks that accompany childhood obesity are extremely significant, we must also understand the impact obesity can have on a child's emotional and academic well-being. Children who are overweight may suffer from low self-esteem and discrimination. In addition, children who are overweight are often physically unfit and lethargic, negatively impacting their performance at school.

Barlow explained that we all have a role in reducing childhood obesity and offered examples of what the government, schools, churches and businesses are doing to combat this problem. Churches are providing heart healthy meals and nutritional information and sponsoring exercise programs and athletic teams. Businesses and schools are partnering to improve physical education and cafeteria nutritional standards. Schools are incorporating nutrition classes into their curriculum, and school nurses are distributing exercise and nutrition information.

As parents, there are many things we can do to address childhood obesity as well. Below are a few of Barlow's tips:

- Pay attention to your child. Show them you care. Children who are not tended by adults have a greater tendency to become obese.
- Don't use food as a comforter.
- Children model the exercise and eating habits of their parents. Set a positive example by exercising and eating nutritious foods.
- Don't focus on the weight - focus on healthy living. Encourage physical activity and good food choices.
- Make dinner time a family time.

Your Child Is Job #1 in Numbers

- 43 City of Columbia City employees
- 900 listeners of The Frank Knapp Radio Show
- 62 Spirax Sarco employees
- 21 Career Specialists

March and April Total: 1026 people reached!

Youth Corps Participants Learn about Career and Higher Education Opportunities

On April 23, 2007, **Youth Corps** participants learned about career and higher education opportunities from MEBA staff members and partners. Youth Corps, a leadership training experience for 40 ninth and tenth grade students from **Richland** and **Lexington** Counties, highlights nine modules of learning and allows students to gain exposure to relative skills and information from top community leaders.

The April Youth Corps module focused on Career and Higher Education, and **Jeff Becraft**, Youth Corps' director, turned to MEBA for help in developing an informative and interesting program for its students. MEBA's **Stacey Westberry** helped organize the event and spoke to the group about MEBA's role in the community and resources available to help students, parents and educators make good career and education decisions.

"Thanks to MEBA and other businesses and organization, Youth Corps is able to provide informative sessions and hands-on learning opportunities for our students," said Becraft. "This experience will help students to become effective leaders in our community."

Patrick Lengel, MEBA partner and a liaison for **Midlands OneStop**, spoke the group about success - obtaining your goals while demonstrating character. Lengel stressed the importance of developing a balance of three valuable characteristics including focus, flexibility



*Patrick Lengel with
OneStop talks with stu-
dents from Youth Corps.*

See **Youth Corps** Page 7

MEBA's Career Detective Visits Midlands Elementary Students



MEBA's Kay Barlow

During the past several months, **MEBA's Career Detective** visited several Midlands elementary schools to teach students about the importance of staying in school and how a good education directly impacts future careers. **Kay Barlow**, MEBA's Education and Community Director and resident Career Detective, has been treating young students to these fun and informative visits for more than eight years.

Barlow begins each program by donning a detective hat and magnifying glass and asking the students to think about and discover what they would like to be when they grow up. She explains that we are never too young to begin thinking about our future careers and stresses the importance of a good education in helping to achieve career goals.

After this captivating introduction, Barlow sheds her detective hat to model a variety of other hats and props to help the students visualize other skills and careers -- a hardhat hat and ruler illustrate careers in construction, engineering and manufacturing; a chef's hat and measuring spoons for careers in hospitality and tourism; and a fireman's hat to showcase careers in public service. Barlow also uses visual aids to teach important work skills - a map to teach teamwork and reading; a stethoscope to emphasize a kind heart; and a top hat and tap dance to highlight physical fitness. Barlow ends the program by wearing a graduation cap and emphasizing that "if you don't wear this hat, you may not be able to wear any of the other hats."

"The students really respond well to my game of 'dress-up,'" explains Barlow. "The hats and props are great tools for helping students understand a very important message. The Career Detective is just one example of how MEBA works hard to make sure all students - no matter their age - learn the importance of education and careers."

Thank you to the following schools for hosting a visit from MEBA's Career Detective: **North Springs Elementary, Richland School District Two; Burnside Elementary, Richland School District One; South Kilbourne Elementary, Richland School District One; and Arden Elementary, Richland School District One.**

Fairfield From Page 1

through a televised broadcast of the **Fairfield County School District**. Fairfield County students also have the opportunity to attend **MEBA's Midlands Middle College** located on **Midlands Technical College Airport Campus**. In addition, MEBA is currently partnering with Fairfield County Schools and the **Fairfield Chamber of Commerce** to host a field study for Fairfield educators that will introduce them to the various industries and careers available in their community.

MEBA sponsors two student field studies each spring and fall designed to introduce Fairfield County students to potential careers in the health care industry. The events take place at **Fairfield Memorial Hospital** and allow students to experience medical technology, the laboratory, emergency department and the medical and surgical floor. Students are able to talk with hospital staff members from these areas to learn about relative educational requirements, job responsibilities and salary ranges. "You can see the light bulbs go on inside the students' minds as they are exposed to the many career opportunities in health care that are available to them," explains **Mary Lynn Kinley**. "This is exciting for us and for the students. MEBA has been the bridge that builds the future between our students and our hospital, and we are grateful to be a part of this productive organization."

MEBA is proud of its partnership with Fairfield County and looks forward to its continued success. "While serving as MEBA's Workforce Development Director and Career Specialist, I enjoyed bringing businesses, educators and students together in Fairfield County over the last six years," states **Lisa Call**, Interim Executive Director for MEBA. "There is so much more that can be done. With Fairfield County's continued support, we will be able to continue to carry out these much needed programs and services to boost career awareness and workforce and economic development in Fairfield County."

MTC Cruise - In

SATURDAY, MAY 5 (May 12 - Rain)

11 am - 4 pm

Beltline Campus, Midlands Technical College
Automotive Technology Facility
Precision Machine Tool Technology Facility

FREE ADMISSION, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Cruise in with your Classic Car, Custom Rod, Truck, Bike or Import!

Visit with Exhibitors

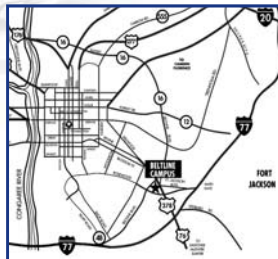
Tour the Automotive Technology and
Precision Machine Tool Technology facilities

Learn about Automotive Technology and
Precision Machine Tool Technology
careers and educational opportunities

Attend Financial Aid and College
Admissions Information Sessions
at 12:30, 1:30 or 2:30 p.m.

Enter for door prizes

Hot dog sales with proceeds
donated to Special Olympics
Torch Run



Call (803) 738-7751 for more information

Sponsored by Midlands Technical College, CARQUEST, Columbia Classic Chevy Club,
NAPA Electrical Sales Group, and NAPA Tools & Equipment.



www.mebasc.com

Midlands Education and Business Alliance
does not discriminate on the basis of race,
color, national origin, sex or disability in its
programs and activities.

*EConnections is an electronic publication of Midlands Education and
Business Alliance. For more information, please contact Ashley Thomas at
ashleythomas@mebasc.com.*

Ellis From Page 4

"Through MEBA we are able to lend a hand in a lot of ways that not only benefits MEBA, but also benefits us," says Ellis. "We are able to help our associates get further education, open our doors to the educational community and establish partnerships that are beneficial to everyone. What MEBA does is of tremendous importance, not only to Siemens but also to many other businesses and industries throughout the Midlands and to the community as a

Youth Corps From Page 5

and faith. OneStop is part of the **Midlands Workforce System** and is designed to enhance services provided to businesses and employers as well as those looking for work. OneStop does this by partnering with employers and social agencies in order to meet employment needs within the Midlands.

David Highsmith, a MEBA partner and career counselor at **Midlands Technical College**, also spoke to the students about career choices and effective application and interview techniques. Highsmith led an exercise that allowed students to participate in mock interviews in order to learn about successful interview skills and results.

"Participating in Youth Corps has been a great experience for me," said **Charles Plowden**, a sophomore at **Heathwood Hall**. "It has allowed me to interact with various types of people and to learn how to work together as a team. I've had the opportunity to learn about how things work like our state and local government and to develop skills that will help me to become a strong leader."

Youth Corps is currently accepting application for the 2007-2008 school year. For more information and to download an application, please visit the Youth Corps website at www.youthcorps.net.