



Chamber Accomplishments

The Chamber serves as the voice of business and is the hub of the community in Summerville and Dorchester County!

- Received the Carolinas Accredited Chamber designation by the Carolinas Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in 2014.
- Partnered with Dorchester District Two to bring the Franklin Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People *Leader in Me* model to Summerville Elementary School – making it the first 7 Habits Leadership School in the State of South Carolina.
With the help of our 2010 Leadership Dorchester Class, the Chamber supported the expansion of the *Leader in Me* model by hosting a luncheon with Sean Covey as our keynote speaker. Since then, not only two other schools in DD2 have implemented (Newington Elementary and Rollings Middle), but numerous schools throughout South Carolina. Through our strong collaboration efforts with the schools and our business partners, we are considered as a model community for the *Leader in Me* and are recognized, not only nationally, but also world-wide.
- Hosts the Franklin Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People Signature Training annually in an effort to help businesses achieve continued success by fostering effective leadership skills in the workforce in our region.
- Led the charge on the Dorchester County One-Cent Sales Tax that helped implement a program that includes 22 road improvement projects.
- Hosts more than 100 networking events each year.
- Legislative updates are hosted by the Public Policy Division with local and state representatives to inform and educate not only our members but the community.
- Continues to hold candidate forums with local and state representatives to keep the community informed and get to know potential decision makers.
- Collaborates each year with the SC Chamber and other local Chambers to provide a pro-business Competitiveness Agenda.
- Since 2007, a total of \$22,000 in scholarship funds has been provided to graduating seniors in School Districts Two and Four to support education in our region.
- Research shows Summerville is the "Birthplace of Sweet Tea" and to support this fact and increase Tourism, a Sweet Tea Trail was created to promote exploring Summerville.
- In 2012, the Visitor Center greeted 13,401 visitors, an increase by 567% - nearly five times over the last 12 years with 2,360 guests in 2001.
- Also in 2012, the Visitor Center responded to a total of 16,007 leads with an additional 307 relocation guides that included visitor information. This is an increase of 53% over 2011 of visitors inquiring about Summerville.
- A founding member of Summerville Cares Day of Service, a program intended to improve the community by conducting a variety of projects for organizations and facilities that struggle to help those in need.
- Continued growth in the operating cash and net assets of the Chamber.



Leadership Dorchester Accomplishments

Leadership Dorchester is an 11 month intensive and comprehensive study of the political, civic, economic and social dynamics in action within Dorchester County. Upon completion of this program, the participant will be well-positioned to educate their peers, coworkers and potential residents about DC.

Since implementing the Leadership Dorchester program in 2009:

Overall

- Graduated more than 100 leaders from in-depth leadership development training through Leadership Dorchester.

LD 2014

- Received a Town of Summerville Resolution for their work on beautifying the Sawmill Branch Trail and contributed nearly \$100,000 in improvements and brought together more than 100 volunteers.

LD 2013

- Raised over \$40,000 to bring awareness and promote Summerville as the 'Birthplace of Sweet Tea' and educate tourist and the community about the Sweet Tea Trail. The trail was designed to guide visitors and locals from the I-26 interchange at Exit 199A through the five districts of Summerville to experience all that our town has to offer.

LD 2012

- Received a Dorchester County Council Resolution for their contribution and promotion of Tri County Link Public Transportation in Dorchester County.

LD 2011

- Received the College of Charleston Business-Educator Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to Alston Middle School's CHEF Program.

LD 2010

- Received statewide attention for hosting a luncheon for SC educators and businesses with keynote speaker Sean Covey which motivated the *Leader in Me* leadership model in schools.

LD 2009

- Spearheaded over \$30,000 worth of renovations to the Dorchester County Children's Center conference room and landscape.