Youth Forum prepares students for careers
Lower Savannah Council of Governments, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act and Department of Commerce sponsored the Aiken Youth Forum at Aiken Technical College on March 7, 2019. This annual event gives high school seniors a hands-on look at careers and the opportunities to meet their career goals when they graduate.

Dr. Forest E. Mahan, President of Aiken Technical College, and André Anderson, Workforce Development Administrator at Lower Savannah Council of Governments, welcomed 223 high school students and chaperones.

The guest speaker was Brooks Harper, author, speaker and career expert. Brooks aspires to the belief that every day is an interview and an opportunity to turn learning into earning and your passion into your paycheck.

Above, Brooks Harper inspires event attendees to follow their passions and work towards their career goals.

Above, Dr. Forest Mahan welcomes students and chaperones to Aiken Technical College for the Youth Forum.

Click here to read more

Upcoming Events
Visit www.lscog.org/events for details.

May 9  |  Executive Committee meeting
May 14 |  Tourism Advisory Committee meeting
May 15 |  Caregiver Appreciation Luncheon
May 16 |  Long-Range Transportation Plan meeting
May 21 |  MASC Elected Officials Training
May 22 |  Long-Range Transportation Plan meeting
May 23 |  Long-Range Transportation Plan meeting
May 27 |  Memorial Day Holiday
June 13 |  Board of Directors meeting

Above, high school seniors work together on a critical thinking activity.
Meet our new employee
Tina Young - Associate Planner

Tina has a Master's degree in International Environmental Policy from Middlebury Institute in Monterey, CA. She came to LSCOG after working as the Planner for Lancaster County in upstate SC. Tina is looking forward to working with local governments and planning activities that will help to improve the communities in the Lower Savannah Region.

Public Meeting Notice
LSCOG will host three public meetings in the month of May to discuss the 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan. At each meeting, the COG and study team will provide information on the 2040 LRTP process, existing conditions and ways to stay informed during the plan process. Attendees will also be able to provide input on traffic flow, safety, bicycle and pedestrian systems, transit services and more. Comment cards will be distributed and the public will be encouraged to participate in the online survey. All meetings will begin at 5:00 pm and are open to the public. More information is available on our website at www.lscog.org.

Thursday, May 16 - Barnwell County Public Library
Wednesday, May 22 - Mellichamp Elementary School
Thursday, May 23 - Aiken County Government Center

2019-2020 Board meeting schedule
The Board of Directors meeting schedule for the July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020 fiscal year is now available. The schedule can be viewed on our website at www.lscog.org/board, or agenda and location updates will be posted on the Events page. All meetings are open to the public. Full board meetings begin at 7:00 PM and Executive Committee meetings begin at 12:00 PM.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>None scheduled</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Full Board</td>
<td>Aiken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Full Board</td>
<td>Allendale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 12</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Clemson REC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 9</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>Full Board</td>
<td>Orangeburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Full Board</td>
<td>Barnwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>Full Board</td>
<td>Calhoun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LSCOG finalizes community needs assessments
Since January, LSCOG’s Community Development staff have been hard at work conducting needs assessments for each county in our region. At the April 11 Board of Directors meeting, Ms. Emory Langston (PCED Administrator) and Mr. Nathaniel Foutch (Economic Development Specialist) presented the methodology and format for the assessment results. They provided a copy to each county summarizing the survey results and highlighting the primary needs in that county. Ms. Langston and Mr. Foutch requested that county officials invite COG staff to council meetings to present detailed results and answer specific questions about the needs assessments.

Above, Ms. Emory Langston receives input at the community needs assessment public hearing in Orangeburg County January 8.
ADTRC to host caregiver luncheon

Caregivers are a vulnerable population. They are more likely to experience emotional stress, physical strain, financial difficulties and impacts on their health. They perform a wide variety of care tasks for their loved ones—everything from housework and advocating with health care professionals to complex medical or nursing tasks.

The Family Caregiver Support Program seeks to assist caregivers with access to information, support programs, training and short-term respite assistance. We are hosting our annual Caregiver Appreciation Luncheon on May 15, 2019. The event is held each year to celebrate and serve those who spend their days caring for others.

Eustis Park Center named after longtime board member

A grand opening for the new Lessie B. Price Senior and Youth Center at Eustis Park was held April 24. In March 2017, the City of Aiken received a grant to build the Center from the SC Department on Aging through the Permanent Improved Program which was administered by the Lower Savannah Council of Governments.

Ms. Price has served on the Aiken City Council and on the LSCOG Board of Directors for more than 30 years. She hopes that the new center will become a destination for everyone, young and old. Eustis Park and the Lessie B. Price Senior and Youth Center are located in the Toole Hill neighborhood in Aiken, SC.

Ms. Price’s family attended the grand opening of the Lessie B. Price Center.

Above, Aiken Mayor Rick Osbon (right) presents the renaming resolution to Ms. Price.
Thoroughbred Country attends Hospitality Day

It was great to see so many legislators turn out for the annual Hospitality Day at the State House. Each April, the hospitality industry of South Carolina hosts the General Assembly and other state elected officials for their most unique social event of the year. We appreciate the legislators’ support of tourism in the Thoroughbred Country region and the state of South Carolina.

Left, Representative William Clyburn, Representative Lonnie Hosey, Representative Jerry N. Govan, Jr., Courtney Clyburn-Pope and Mary Ann Keisler.

South Carolina’s Best Peaches & Berries now available

Warm weather brings with it fresh produce and a new version of South Carolina’s Best Peaches and Berries brochure. The brochure includes produce stands and markets in western and upstate regions of South Carolina, as well as recipes and events.

Click here to read more