

## VOICES

## THE GREENVILLE NEWS EDITORIAL

## GADC proves its value over 10 years

**G**reenville County's unemployment rate of slightly more than 8 percent is better than most counties in our state — a significant achievement given heavy losses in the once-dominant textile industry over the past couple of decades. Helping attract new companies and nurture growth in those already here is the Greenville Area Development Corporation.

The GADC was founded 10 years ago by the Greenville County Council. In celebrating its first decade of life last week, GADC board members and staff, county officials and local investors in this unique organization rightly took pride in notable accomplishments of recent years.

At the celebration luncheon and in a "Report to the Community" published in *The Greenville News*, the GADC pointed with pride to its being part of the effort that produced 12,000 new announced jobs and more than \$2.3 billion in capital

investments in the county over the past decade. And GADC officials say every public dollar invested in the organization has returned more than \$7 in revenue to Greenville County — what GADC Chairperson Jo Watson Hackl appropriately called "an impressive return on investment."

GADC was founded during a contentious time on Greenville County Council, and it takes nothing away from its accomplishments to note that rough beginning. At the time of its birth, economic development largely was the responsibility of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce.

Last week's annual investors meeting, including the 10th anniversary celebration, was about the successes of GADC, and a significant one includes its willingness to embrace other economic development partners, engage in a spirit of collaboration and forge strong partnerships. In saluting other

organizations such as the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, Upstate SC Alliance, the S.C. Department of Commerce, the city of Greenville and other local chambers and municipalities, Hackl and County Council Chairman Butch Kirven wrote in a recent op-ed published in this newspaper, "Together with the GADC, these organizations contribute unique capabilities and resources to accomplish the economic development goals of our area."

Cooperation among these organizations will be even more important as Greenville County continues to work to attract new industries and help those already here grow and prosper. Almost one in 10 people in Greenville County is seeking employment, and many of those who have jobs want to improve their lot in life and, even more, ensure the future is bright for their children and grandchildren.

Greenville County

leaders — as well as those responsible for a more statewide focus — understand the importance of targeting their economic development efforts toward selected clusters that support existing businesses, inspire more innovation and growth, and attract similar businesses that will bring more well-paying jobs. GADC's target clusters are a natural for this county: advanced materials, automotive, aviation, biosciences, and headquarters/R&D.

Economic development is not something that's done and then it's over. In our ever-changing world that is based on a global economy, economic development must be a constant and dynamic activity to ensure a continuous supply of well-paying jobs. Over the past decade, GADC has proven it is an important player in working to attract new industries to Greenville County and retain and support existing ones.



Thomas Sowell

Columnist

## Try this approach to cuts

**S**ince everybody else seems to be coming up with plans on how to cope with the skyrocketing national debt, let me try my hand at it. The liberals' easy solution is just to increase taxes on "the rich." But there aren't enough "rich" to cover the huge and record-breaking deficit.

Trying to reduce the deficit by cutting spending runs into an old familiar counterattack. There will be all kinds of claims by politicians and sad stories in the media about how these cuts will cause the poor to go hungry, the sick to be left to die,



Ruth Marcus

Columnist

## Obama's not in the game

**I**'ve spent enough time at kids' soccer games to understand that it's impossible to score if you're playing on the wrong side of the field.

Which is why I have found the White House strategy for dealing with Republicans on the deficit to be so befuddling.

The fight over spending this fiscal year is a case in point. If the argument is framed solely in terms of budget cuts, Republicans always win: They are willing to out-cut Democrats. That inescapable tilt was exacerbated by the virtual absence of a White House message about the impact of a shutdown or