

All of SC Is 'Open for Business'

Haley saluted for economic development success

THE GREENVILLE AREA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, charged with enhancing quality of life in Greenville County by facilitating job growth and investment, revealed results from another strong year in economic development at its annual Investor Meeting and Luncheon at The Poinsett Club last week. ¶ GADC President and CEO Jerry Howard and Chairman Chris Riley cited 2012 results including continued strong job creation – 1,454 new jobs announced – along with \$273 million in new capital investment for 2012, and a 7-to-1 return on investment to Greenville County for every public dollar invested in GADC activities.

The GADC also took time to honor keynote speaker and S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley with the ninth annual William D. Workman III Buffalo Hunter Award, the organization's highest honor. Presented since 2004 to the individual or organization having the most significant positive impact on the local economy, Governor Haley is the

first S.C. governor ever to receive the GADC award. Here are some highlights from the event.

DELIVERING RESULTS

Riley told a standing-room-only gathering of private- and public-sector leaders that in 2012 the GADC worked with relocating and existing companies to create 1,454 new jobs and attract new investment of \$273 million. Since 2001, the GADC has announced over 16,500 new jobs and \$2.8 billion in capital investment in the county, he added, while returning \$7 to Greenville County for every public dollar invested in GADC initiatives. "That's a heck of a return," Riley noted.

GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

"Throughout her tenure as governor, Nikki Haley has consistently made calls, made visits and met with business executives anywhere in the world to ensure that positive economic growth – and the thousands of good paying jobs and billions of dollars in investments that

go with them – come to South Carolina, with many of them right here in Greenville County," said GADC CEO Jerry Howard. "More so than any governor before her, Nikki Haley has made a huge difference in economic development."

THE NEED FOR AN "INFRASTRUCTURE POOL"

Haley addressed concerns that the state doesn't have enough money to take care of inadequate roads and bridges by calling for the creation of an infrastructure pool to fund improvements and repairs. "We have got to start an infrastructure pool, because I can keep bringing jobs, but at some point it's not enough if we don't have air, rail, ports and roads to handle all of that freight."

STATE IS "A GREAT PLACE TO DO BUSINESS."

Haley thanked attendees for their support of economic development across the state. "We have gotten to the point where we no longer think regionally. We understand that what's good for Greenville is good for Charleston and Orangeburg, so we can deliver a coordinated message to the world that all of South Carolina is open for – and a great place to live and conduct – business."



Gov. Nikki Haley

Photo Provided

DON'T RAISE THE GAS TAX

Haley urged attendees not to be too quick to jump on a gasoline tax increase. "It shouldn't be a consideration until we put 100 percent of the current gas tax money to infrastructure. So many say we don't have enough money, but we had \$300 million to put into ports last year. Let's make sure that the money we have is going to the right places first."

AMERICA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOVERNOR

Howard pointed to Haley's record pace for job creation and investment in South Carolina. "Since becoming governor, she has emerged as a champion of strategic economic development, announcing a record 31,000 new jobs and over \$7.5 billion in investment in South Carolina in just 2 years," he said. Howard presented the William D. Workman III Buffalo Hunter Award to the governor, noting it was aptly inscribed "America's Economic Development Governor." The governor received a standing ovation from attendees.

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Gov. Nikki Haley

EVENT: 2013 GADC Investor Meeting & Luncheon – The Poinsett Club, April 11

WHO WAS THERE: Nearly 300 business and political leaders from Greenville County and across South Carolina

SPEAKERS: Included keynoter Gov. Nikki R. Haley; GADC Chairman Chris Riley; GADC CEO Jerry Howard

THEME: "Greenville County: Creating a Pathway to Prosperity"

The Greenville Area Development Corporation is a nonprofit organization established by Greenville County Council to promote and enhance the economic growth and development of Greenville County. For more information on the Greenville Area Development Corporation or its activities, contact Jerry Howard at 864-235-2008 or visit them online at goGADC.com.