

County Chairman Smith named SCRA Knowledge Economist

From local reports

CHARLESTON — SCRA and Florence County Economic Development Partnership announced that Florence County Councilman K.G. “Rusty” Smith Jr. was named as an SCRA Knowledge Economist recently at the Materials Innovation Technologies grand opening ceremony in Lake City. On behalf of SCRA, Stewart McKenzie, SC Launch Midlands Zone Manager, recognized Smith for his contributions to South Carolina’s Knowledge Economy, which creates high-salaried technology jobs, nurtures new ventures and capital investment, and builds equity for the future — a perfect parallel to MIT opening a facility in South Carolina,



Smith

which is expected to hire up to 120 employees over a five-year period.

The SCRA Knowledge Economist Award Program recognizes outstanding citizens who have made significant contributions to South Carolina’s Knowledge Economy “where the value of the mind shapes the successful profile of progress,” said Mahoney. “Part of SCRA’s role in its dedication to South Carolina’s Knowledge Economy is to recognize those outstanding citizens in our society who have made significant contributions to Knowledge Economy advancement,” he said.

Smith, a lifelong resident of Lake City, was first elected to Florence County Council in 1986. He serves as chairman, a position he has held on four different occasions. He has served on the Florence City-County Civic Center Commission and the FLATS Committee and continues to serve on the Florence County Economic Development Part-

nership. He serves as chairman of the Florence-Williamsburg County Joint Industrial Park Commission and is past president of the South Carolina Association of Counties, as well as a recipient of the coveted SCAC Presidents Cup Award, and he serves as vice chairman of the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors.

To confirm that its knowledge economy efforts are being realized, a recent study by The University of South Carolina Moore School of Business cited SCRA’s 2007 contribution to economic development at \$1.4 billion, encompassing more than 11,000 jobs with per capita incomes of \$55,000-\$77,000.

For more information about the SCRA Knowledge Economist Award Program and a list of persons who have been recognized as a South Carolina Knowledge Economist, please click on this link: http://sclaunch.org/knowledge_economy_wards.shtml

