

Sherri

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MBREDC E-Newsletter



CEO Survey Ranks SC as 8th Best Place to do Business in

South Carolina's did have a slip in a recent survey of decision-makers, although it still remains among the top states for doing business.

In the 2019 Best States & Worst States for business ranking by Chief Executive magazine, the Palmetto State came in at No. 8, down from a third-place tie in 2018 and No. 4 in 2017. The magazine received responses from 350 chief executives and company presidents for this year's edition of its annual survey.

"This is really a reputation survey," said Dan Bigman, editor and chief content officer at Chief Executive. "How much noise are you making in the CEO community? What kinds of headlines are you generating in the national press? What are CEOs hearing through the grapevine?"

Texas was No. 1 and has been for the past several years. Florida remained No. 2, followed by Tennessee, North Carolina and Indiana. Georgia ranked 10th.

In its analysis of South Carolina, the magazine wrote that manufacturing remained strong, with new growth coming from tech and financial services. It pointed to job creation and/or capital investments by companies such as Caterpillar, Google, JW Aluminum, Keurig Green Mountain and RoundPoint Mortgage Servicing Corp.

Bigman said that nothing specifically negative about South Carolina jumped out from the survey. In general, a state's tax/regulatory environment has a big impact with CEOs, but there's an emerging factor that also carries a lot of weight.

"Talent," Bigman said. "Where am I going to find the people? They want to hear that a state takes that seriously."

The April unemployment rate in South Carolina was 3.4% compared to the national rate of 3.6%. Preliminary estimates from the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce showed that every county in South Carolina saw a drop in its jobless rate compared to March.

Richard Blackwell, the former economic development director in Oconee County and currently a vice president of development with industrial developer Agracel Inc., said tightening labor markets are a topic of conversation all around the growing South.

“That’s what we’re hearing – workforce, workforce, workforce,” he said. “The ability to find talent is not easy.”

Bigman said one of the things that helps Indiana’s reputation among CEOs is its colleges, from Notre Dame and other small, private schools to its state university system. He said decision-makers want to know what states are doing to cultivate not simply good workers, but great ones.

“They’ve learned how to learn, they’re adaptive, they’re flexible,” Bigman said. “That’s a real strength when you’re trying to grow the people that are going to run the manufacturing plants of the future.”

As for the worst states, bottom seven were the same as in 2018. California was in last place, followed, in ascending order, by New York, Illinois, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Oregon.

The Chief Executive rankings are in their 15th year. Looking back, South Carolina ranked seventh in 2016, 10th in 2015, fifth in 2014 and No. 8 in 2013.

“South Carolina has always been highly regarded,” Blackwell said. “We’re still in the top 10, which says a lot.”

Blackwell added that the Palmetto State is known for a pro-business regulatory environment and aggressive tax incentives.

“We need to continue to do a good job of selling ourselves,” he said.





Mobile Trade Initiative Approved for SC: A win for workforce

Carolinas AGC is proud to be the only commercial construction association involved in successfully pushing for state funding for a critical skilled trades initiative. It won't be long before South Carolina begins to see a tricked out 18-wheeler that serves as a mobile skilled trades workshop, rolling down the interstate and showcasing skilled trades at schools, football games, and fairs.

South Carolina is following in the footsteps of Arkansas, which rolled out a program for skilled professionals called Be Pro Be Proud in 2016. This concentrated effort delivers students, parents and teachers, real information about opportunities that exist across several skilled trade professions.

Younger generations have been told that in order to be successful and attain the "American Dream" they must go to college and obtain a degree. But through the Be Pro Be Proud movement in Arkansas, that perception is changing, and it will now in South Carolina as well.

"The Be Pro Be Proud truck is going to provide a vision for those considering entering the construction field. By showing a vast array of opportunities for a lifelong and well-paying career, this initiative will have a huge impact on our students, our industry, and our state. I am very thankful for the efforts of the coalition and the SC Legislature to see this to fruition and look forward to seeing great results from this investment," said Marty McKee of King Asphalt.

Carolinas AGC along with the SC Trucking Association, the SC Homebuilders, the SC Forestry Association and the SC State Chamber of Commerce formed a small coalition

nearly three years ago that has worked tirelessly to obtain funding from the state to start a Be Pro Be Proud initiative in South Carolina. Our groups and other interested industries will make this a true Public Private Partnership as we all raise money to help propel this initiative forward.

"When high schools stopped having dedicated shop classes, the exposure to hands-on skilled trades stopped as well," said Leslie Clark, Director of Government Relations and Divisions for Carolinas AGC. "The construction industry has reached a critical shortage of workers and we hope the Be Pro Be Proud truck, as well as the programs we are pushing through our Build Your Career program, will help us begin to address that shortage."

For more information on [Be Pro Be Proud Click Here](#)



We want to let our readers learn more about our partners and their businesses/organizations in Horry County. Email us so we can set up a time to stop by to visit and highlight your company.

Email us at ssteele@mbredc.org



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Upcoming Events



MBREDC Event | Technology



Thursday, June 20th

Deadline to RSVP June 14th

Dave & Buster's

Sponsored by [Archetype SC](#)

[Email to RSVP](#)

Save the Date Calendar 2019

***Dates and event topics are tentative and subject to change**

***The events below are for partners and members of the MBREDC**

SAVE *The* DATE | 2019

FEBRUARY 13TH Women in Business

MARCH 21ST M2M Networking

APRIL 25TH Pelicans Baseball Social

MAY 17TH CEO Spotlight Breakfast

JUNE 20TH Technology Event

AUGUST 15TH Economic Development Panel

SEPTEMBER 12TH CEO Spotlight Breakfast

OCTOBER 17TH Oyster Roast Social

JANUARY 2020 Annual Meeting

**Dates and events are tentative and subject to change.*

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If you would like to receive updates, e-newsletters, and invites to events
please contact us at sssteel@mbredc.org or 843.347.4604



Member News

[Grand Opening Celebration Held for Tidelands Health Rehabilitation Hospital](#)

[Best Western Plus Intracoastal Myrtle Beach Earns Certificate of Excellence](#)

[Monarch Roofing & Solar CEO talks impact of Storms on their Industry](#)

[Horry County Student Achieves 12 Year Perfect Attendance](#)

[Beer Industry Contributes \\$.3.38 Billion Annually to SC Economy](#)

[Small Business Manufacturers Struggle to Hire](#)

[Marketing Strategies CEO talks Content is King](#)

[New Chairman of SC State Workforce Development Board](#)

[Tidelands Health Earns More Than a Dozen Marketing Awards](#)

[Nelson Mullins Riley Attorneys Get Recognized](#)

[CCU Earns IIE Seal of Excellence](#)

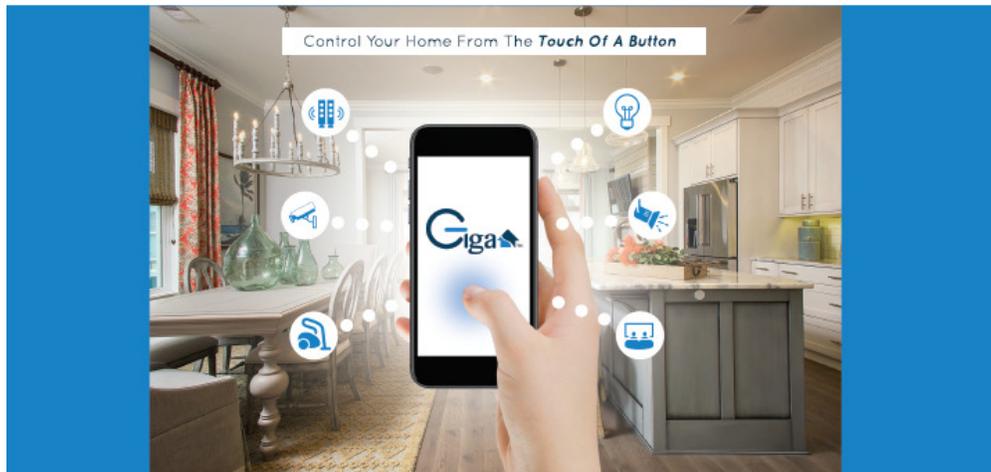
[Santee Cooper is Ready for Hurricane Season](#)

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If you are a MBREDC member and have news to share we would love to hear it! Please send link to Ssteele@mbredc.org

Partner Spotlight



This month we highlight MBREDC partner [Star Life Safety](#)

Star Life Safety is proud to be the leading provider of automated facility monitoring, facility compliance and time synchronization technologies. They will continue to lead the way by investing in research and emerging technologies to improve facility efficiencies and regulatory compliance.

Star Life Safety is a division of Star Fire Protection and Star Healthcare Solutions. Star Fire was established in 1988 and has been installing life safety throughout Metro NY and New Jersey for over 25 years.

They provide life safety and integrated solutions to all types of healthcare institutions, including; hospitals, clinics, labs, nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Star Life Safety are able to integrate comprehensive solutions into your facility's to network, manage, access and monitor sensitive areas and help secure valuable equipment. They have a commitment to deliver easily expandable life safety solutions on-time and in compliance with code.

New & Renewing Partners

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