



SCORE National Chapter Award to Aiken

April 30, 2017

The Greater Aiken Chapter of SCORE has been awarded the 2017 National Chapter of Year Award for small cities.

This is a significant accomplishment since SCORE, the all-volunteer arm of the Small Business Administration (SBA), has nearly 340 chapters across the US.

Gordon Magee, State District Director for South Carolina said: "This is great recognition for a SCORE Chapter that is making significant contributions to the communities it serves. We're extremely proud of Aiken."

SCORE provides mentors, coaching and training to local small businesses and entrepreneurs. In the Greater Aiken area SCORE volunteers provide one-on-one support, seminar training and presentations in local schools and universities.

Aiken's Chapter was encouraged to submit an application after a strong showing in the National Chapter of the Year Award review the previous year.

Last year the local SCORE Chapter met with 367 clients in nearly 700 meetings. They conducted 48 seminars that were attended by 1950 members of the small business community.

SCORE volunteers are also providing instruction to high school students at Aiken High School. Presentations are made graduating seniors on how to find a job, what to expect from your first boss, and how to be successful in the job interview.

Additionally they taught classes in the Federal Correctional Institute (FCI) in Edgefield and graduated 76 people who completed the eight sessions of the SCORE Simple Steps Program on how to start a small business. This year that effort has been extended to a State Correctional Institute and will repeat in the FCI.

SCORE enjoys the support of several important partners, including the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce, North Augusta Chamber of Commerce, Southern Wesleyan University, USC Aiken, and the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce and Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce in Georgia.

The Greater Aiken Chapter also benefits from financial support of business sponsors, including Security Federal Bank, Floyd and Green Jewelers, TD Bank, Fifth Third Bank, and Southern Bank and Trust.

The Greater Aiken SCORE Chapter supports clients in five South Carolina counties centered on Aiken County, and 13 counties in Georgia, including Richmond and Columbia Counties.

“We were told the breadth and impact of our programs impressed evaluators who considered the Chapter candidates for this honor,” said John Carman, Chair of the Greater Aiken Chapter.

“Currently we have 41 volunteers supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs throughout the Greater Aiken and Greater Augusta area,” according to Carman.

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