



## Aiken County Public School District

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For Immediate Release

### Connecting Students to College and Careers: ACPD Partners with STEM Premier and the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance

The Aiken County Public School District is leveraging partnerships and resources to connect students with high-quality post-secondary opportunities. Aiken County is one of the very first districts to partner with the manufacturing alliance in this initiative.

The *Future Makers* initiative was created by the South Carolina Manufacturing Education Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit affiliated with the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance, in response to the growing workforce challenges facing manufacturers in recruiting skilled and talented young associates.

Powered by STEM Premier, the SC Future Makers website will debut in November 2015. "Aiken's students will soon be able to research and access the manufacturing industry, engage in career exploration, and showcase their unique skill set to interested colleges and companies" said Aiken County's Superintendent Dr. Sean Alford.

The *South Carolina Future Makers* mission is to increase the skilled workforce pipeline entering manufacturing and STEM related careers.

"I'm excited about the prospect of our students building an online resume and beginning the process of networking and getting an early start towards college acceptance and career success, remarked High School Academic Officer Dr. Tim Yarborough. "We are dedicated to our students having a positive post-secondary experience and STEM Premier will facilitate that process."

"It's exciting that the Aiken School District has partnered with the South Carolina Future Makers initiative," said Lewis Gossett, President and CEO of the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance. "Aiken is home to many world class companies whose high-tech and innovative operations require an incredible level of skill and talent from its associates. To ensure continued global

