



CoEE INVESTOR SPOTLIGHT: HSSC



Health Sciences South Carolina (HSSC) is a unique public-private partnership—a statewide collaboration that includes Clemson University, the University of South Carolina (USC), and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), along with the state's three largest healthcare systems: the Greenville Hospital System, Palmetto Health, and the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System.

To date, HSSC has pledged several million dollars to South Carolina's Centers of Economic Excellence (CoEE) Program. HSSC is an investor in nine Centers of Economic Excellence

(CoEEs) at Clemson, USC, and MUSC in the following health-related fields: brain imaging, regenerative medicine, clinical effectiveness and patient safety, childhood neurotherapeutics, molecular proteomics in cardiovascular disease prevention and treatment, healthcare quality, health facilities design and testing, stroke, and preserving quality of life for older adults (SeniorSMART™).

Below, HSSC President Jay Moskowitz, who is also an Endowed Chair for the CoEE in Healthcare Quality, explains in more detail his organization's involvement in the CoEE Program.

Why did HSSC's member organizations want to invest in the CoEE Program?

Moskowitz: Our member organizations consider the CoEE Program a great opportunity to leverage the intellectual and financial resources of the universities and health systems. By investing in Centers of Economic Excellence, we can provide financial support for research and accelerate the creation of spin-off companies and commercial products.

For example, one of the CoEEs HSSC has funded in part is the SeniorSMART™ CoEE, which seeks to preserve the quality of life for older adults through technology. This CoEE combines the resources of five HSSC member organizations and has attracted a number of external partners with the ability to speed concepts to commercial reality. One of these external partners, Germany's Fraunhofer Institute of Software Development, specializes in bringing new inventions and services to market. They're the ones who developed and patented MP3 technology.

Other partners include Lutheran Homes of South Carolina and Still Hopes Episcopal Homes; they have both agreed to test SeniorSMART™ technology in hopes of putting it to commercial use in their retirement communities across the state. This kind of collaboration is just one example of the economic potential of the CoEE Program and why HSSC has invested in it.

How is HSSC benefiting from its investment in CoEE?

Moskowitz: HSSC partners and stakeholders have realized many immediate benefits. Recruiting world-class researchers is easier, and several three-way faculty appointments among Clemson, MUSC, and USC advance inter-university collaboration. More ideas are being generated and shared, and technology and equipment is being shared, as well. Leveraging purchases and avoiding redundancies saves money. Finally, teams of inventors have opportunities to form new companies marketing software, products, and services resulting from research performed within the CoEEs.

What does HSSC see as the potential long-term advantages of being involved with the CoEE Program?

Moskowitz: Over the long term, HSSC member organizations expect other important returns from the initial investments made in CoEEs. Collaborative approaches to patient safety, including infection control and reducing hospital-acquired infections, will increase. Interoperable patient records will allow healthcare providers to respond more quickly to life-threatening illness and emergencies. Shared data analysis will benefit clinical, outcome, and prevention studies. We'll be able to move healthcare technology faster from bench to bedside. More commercially successful technology will be made in South Carolina.

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Working together with the CoEE Program, HSSC member organizations have the unprecedented opportunity to collaborate with partners throughout the world, to attract

new funding from federal and private investors, and to inspire many people to greatness.



About the CoEE Program

Established by the S.C. General Assembly in 2002, the South Carolina Centers of Economic Excellence Program receives an appropriation from S.C. Education Lottery funds to help Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, and the University of South Carolina create Centers of Economic Excellence (CoEE) in research areas that will advance South Carolina's economy and lead to high-paying jobs. The program also provides funding for CoEE endowed chairs, world-renowned scientists recruited to South Carolina to lead the Centers. Every dollar the state invests must be matched dollar-for-dollar with non-state funds from companies, philanthropies, or federal agencies.

For details on how your company can benefit by investing in the CoEE Program, please use the following contact information:

Clemson University
Dr. Chris Przirembel

Vice President for Research and Economic Development
864.656.7701 or cprzmb1@clemson.edu

University of South Carolina
Dr. Christine Curtis

Senior Vice Provost
803.777.2808 or curtisch@mailbox.sc.edu

The Medical University of South Carolina

Dr. John Raymond

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
843.792.3031 or raymondj@musc.edu

www.sccoee.org