



**Everything
You Need Is...**



HERE

Healthcare • Education • Recreation • Employment

HERE We Are...

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Rarely is there a geographic location that provides all that one needs to thrive. Sumter and Lee Counties, South Carolina is that infrequent find. Combining southern hospitality, an aggressive business climate, award winning recreational venues, and state-of-the-art healthcare, TheLINK region meets any conceivable need. The regions' assets are sure to exceed what an individual wants and what a company desires. A strong educational system coupled with dedicated business and community leaders makes this area ideal. A low cost of living with a high level of satisfaction along with beaches and mountains right up the road, let us know that **"Everything you need is HERE or near."**

HERE you'll find the **people**, **products** and sense of **place** to enhance your business and your life.

With a population of over 120,000, the region has the capacity to support most big city amenities like museums, theatres and music venues, yet intimate and tight-knit providing the comfort and hospitality the South is known for.



SOUTH EAST CENTRAL



LAKE MARION



CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF



...For You

In the heart of South Carolina, TheLINK region is just 44 miles east of the state capital, **Columbia**. The deep-water ports of **Charleston** are located 100 miles south, while the **Greenville Upstate** area is 145 miles northwest.

One of the greatest stretches of beaches in the world, the **Myrtle Beach Grand Strand**, is about 100 miles east of Sumter, and the **Blue Ridge Parkway** and the Appalachian Mountains are 175 miles northwest.





Compassion in Action

Coined by Benjamin Franklin to a group of fire-threatened Philadelphians in 1736, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

With dedicated professionals and practitioners in the field, Healthcare is robust in this region. Advanced technology strengthens our human resources to ensure that patients are provided with excellent care.

6,500 Healthcare Professionals

15+ Gyms and Clubs

9 General Surgeons

2 Major Hospital Networks

“Pathway to Excellence”
Hospital Recognition

Healthcare is HERE!

Healthcare



Fresh local
produce



Family fitness and
wellness programs



Rapid response healthcare



Circuit and functional
training



Next generation preparation



Advanced technology
combined with experience



Being new to the Sumter area, I am pleased with the professional healthcare I have received thus far.



- Melanie Clark, Retired Military

Healthcare



Open spaces for walking and talking



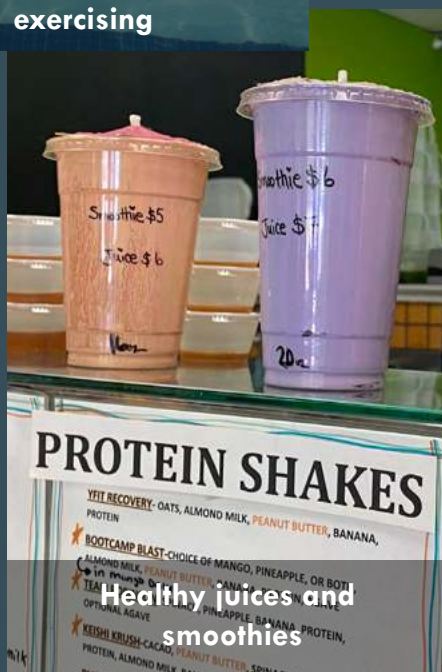
Pools for swimming and exercising



Trails and paths for pedaling



Staff that's responsive and ready for life's emergencies



Healthy juices and smoothies



Professional dental services with excellent patient care

Now more than ever, healthcare has taken center stage as we rapidly increase our access to healthcare advances. Our facilities feature modern technologies enhanced by a caring and qualified staff, bringing the best and most updated healthcare treatment to TheLINK region.



IMPROVING HEALTHCARE DELIVERY

What is your primary responsibility?

I'm responsible for training, advising and monitoring patients to improve health care delivery systems performed by CareSouth Carolina staff.

What is the best thing about your job?

I enjoy being able to communicate and educate the community on the importance of proper Healthcare.

What advice would you give for positive health outcomes? The best advice I would give is to think positively which helps decrease stress and improve overall health. Lifestyle changes are also important.

About how many people are served annually? More than 5,000 people are served.



Jaquetta Graham
Caresouth Carolina Bishopville

PRACTICING WITH A PURPOSE

Where are you originally from?

Bangalore, India but have been in the United States since 1998.

Did you know as a child you'd be a physician?

As a child, I didn't know but there was a medical college about 10 mins away from my house. I would always admire this one lady in particular going in wearing her white coat.

What keeps you going?

I want to help people bring change in their lives and give them quality care.

What do you find special about Sumter?

People are very humble here and appreciate being medically educated about their health.



Dr. Sudharani Nanjaiah
Prisma Health Tuomey

Healthcare is HERE!



Learning and Leading

The key to a strong talent pipeline is a robust and resilient education structure coupled with a strategy to deploy excellence. From Blue Ribbons and Nationally Certified STEM programs to Field Studies and Athletic Champions, our students receive a top-notch education from a certified and professional team of leaders. Students are immersed in an array of projects and programs that challenge their minds, spark their creativity and instill a sense of social and civic responsibility. Recognizing that students today are the employees of tomorrow, the business community enthusiastically supports school activities and offers further opportunities for engagement.

20,000+ K-12
Pupils in Public and Private
Schools

15 Universities/Colleges
within 50 miles

4 National Certified STEM
Schools

International Award-Winning
STEAM Festival

New Public STEAM Charter
School

Education is HERE!

Education



Early art exposure



Talent development programs



Certifications & training programs



Real world space exploration initiatives



K-12 business and industry engagement



STEAM adventures for kids and adults of all ages



We want always to walk hand-in-hand with our community leaders to make sure we meet the needs of our students.



-Dean Michael Sonntag, University of South Carolina - Sumter

Education



Associates and Bachelor's degrees



High School Career Development Centers



Looking into great STEAM opportunities



Hands-on learning and listening



Youth Apprenticeships



Youth Leadership Development

Advanced learning and seasoned facilitators combine, creating forward momentum in education and training for this region. Our school districts serve 20,000 students in 38 public schools and nearly 2,000 students in 13 private schools. This region is home to seven colleges and universities: The University of South Carolina-Sumter, Central Carolina Technical College, Morris College, Troy University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Saint Leo University, and Webster University.



EDUCATION WITH A CHOICE

What difference will Liberty STEAM Charter make locally? LSC will provide Sumter families with a FREE world-class, STEAM-focused, public school choice.

How did you decide to work with LSC? I fell in love with LSC's mission and the leadership team's plan to develop a school that had excellence woven in every intricate detail of our programming.

How long did it take you to get acclimated? I have officially been in Sumter for 5 months and I would say it is finally feeling like home.

What's really different about living here? Everything I need is 15 minutes or less for me. I have never experienced that and I LOVE IT!



Dr. Latasha Carter
Director of Advocacy and Engagement
Liberty STEAM Charter School

FUTURE PREPARATION

Where are you originally from?
I'm from Lima, Peru.

Who was your most influential teacher?
Rebecca Hillman, Math professor at the University of South Carolina - Sumter Campus was definitely most influential.

How is your education preparing you for your future career? I was able to find my future career by taking algebra and pre-calculus with Dr. Hillman and a few computer science classes at USC-Sumter. I have fallen in love with all things computers.

What's something unique or special about this region? You come across wonderful people that become lifelong friends.



Marisol Rios Lecaros
USC Sumter Graduate

Education is HERE!



Great Food and Great Times

As found in its root word, recreate, you will have fond recreational experiences repeatedly and consistently in this region. Lush greens can be found in the parks or on your plate as you're enjoying scenic views or a southern dish. Be delighted by spacious areas to host festivals, gatherings or galas or be greeted with a smile by a gracious host at both franchised and locally owned restaurants and bars. Take in a show at the Sumter Opera House or take a walk through the award-winning topiary garden of Pearl Fryar. Breathe freely and clearly while enjoying all that we have HERE.

140+ Restaurants & Eateries

30+ Recreational Venues & Parks

24 World-Renowned Tennis Courts

10+ Downtown Festivals & Events

8 Species of swans only found at Swan Lake-Iris Gardens

Recreation is HERE!

Recreation



Performances
for all ages



A short stop to activities



Outdoor festivals and concerts



Recreational hunting
and fishing



World-class golf courses



Largest tennis facility in the
Southern Region



The creative community engenders the elements necessary to draw people to a place, keep them there, and make them love where they live.



-Melanie Colclough, Executive Director Patriot Hall/Cultural Center

Recreation



Trails for riding or hiking



World famous
Topiary Gardens



Unique features and
calm waters



Upscale fashion and accessories



Delightful cuisine prepared by
internationally-trained chefs



In-house brews with entertainment and fun

Our region has cozy spots for rest and an inviting ambiance. Food bursting with flavor from local restaurants, and entertainment you'll enjoy in a community you'll love. Families enjoy disc golf, tennis courts, jogging trails, playgrounds, softball, baseball and soccer at several state-of-the-art recreational facilities. We're home to a growing arts and culture scene, including Sumter's Historic Opera House which boasts a 550-seat theatre, excellent acoustics and the perfect intimate venue to see your favorite artists.



FRIENDLY FACES

How long have you lived in Sumter? I moved to Sumter in 2016 after college. I am originally from Naperville, Illinois - a suburb of Chicago.

What do you love most about Sumter and her offerings? I really like the downtown area. Most weekends I dine downtown, especially when the weather is beautiful. We enjoy sitting outside. There are always friendly faces.

Moving from the Midwest, what was your biggest adjustment to the South? The pollen! Also, the vernacular. For example, the words buggy and pocketbook were foreign to me.

Last Thoughts - There are lots of walkways and parks here. I like taking photos so it's good to see there's always something in the works to enrich recreation.



Janel Strieter
Communications Coordinator, The Sumter Item

DREAMS COME TRUE

Where are you originally from?

I am from Manning, SC.

How did you get started on the restaurant trail? I started cooking in college. Growing up I wasn't cooking because the boys had to go outside and cut grass. But while in college I started with small catering and family events. I've always dreamed about opening a restaurant.

Why was it important for you to open a restaurant in this region? Having the opportunity to live in other areas of South Carolina, I want to expose assets that are often found in larger areas.



Jeffrey Lampkin - Restaurateur
Country Boy Kitchen and Bistro

Recreation is HERE!



We don't just exist, We Thrive

Some of the most well-known industries and retailers anchor our economy by offering competitive wages, sound benefits and opportunities for advancement. Business and education are well-meshed HERE. Leaders eagerly support student activities and encourage a communal environment with family fun days and corporate challenges. In a city known for Uncommon Patriotism, Shaw Air Force Base significantly contributes to our economic landscape and the knowledge, skills, and abilities of our workforce. An elevated skill set, easy commute and dedicated community leadership solidify this region as an outstanding locale that is ready to go to work.

856,000+

Labor Force (Within a 45-Mile Radius)

\$51,710 Avg.

Manufacturing Wages

5,276 Active

Airmen at Shaw AFB

80+ Manufacturers

Employers Offering Tuition
Reimbursement & Other
Incentives

Employment is HERE!

Employment



Local shops and
retail stores



Local production for
global products



Mentoring and shadowing to keep
our workforce strong



Forward thinkers leading
the way



Patriotism at its best



Military and industry connections

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I moved from Northern Illinois to Sumter for an internal promotion with Caterpillar. We love it HERE!

-Tim Hummel, Sumter Hydraulics HR Manager

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Employment



Certified and well-trained educators



Small business development



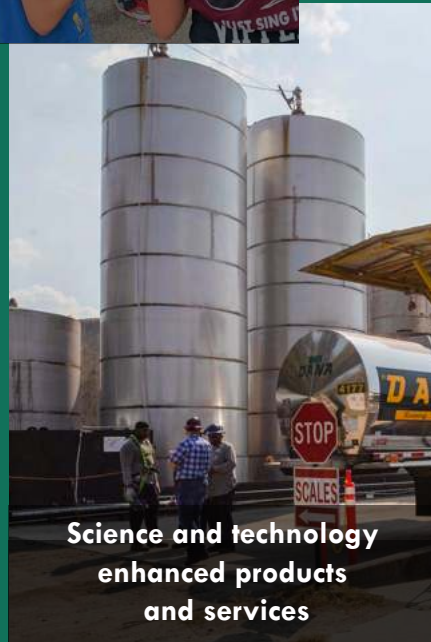
Real Estate and business professionals



Diligent practitioners saving lives



Well-known industries growing and thriving



Science and technology enhanced products and services

Companies with compassionate leadership and dedicated team members ultimately yield exponential growth and opportunities. It's what we've come to know and how we run our business. Due to our pro-business climate, our low-cost environment and the skills of our dedicated workers, our region's diverse manufacturing base has everything they need right here to succeed. The top employers based on number of employees include Continental Tire, Coca-Cola Consolidated, Pilgrim's, SKF, Eaton, BD, Caterpillar, Crown Health Care Laundry, International Paper, and the Thompson Family of Companies.

THE MAKERSPACE MOVEMENT

REGULAR PEOPLE WITH EXTRAORDINARY TOOLS

EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

In partnership with The Link, USC Sumter & Sumter School District

Presented by:

Santosh Nandi, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Management
University of South Carolina -- Sumter campus



PROVIDING QUALITY SERVICE

Where are you originally from? Seoul, Korea

When did Zebra Custom Design open and how did you select the location? We've been operating since 1996. I grew up in Sumter so it was an easy decision for me.

What areas do you primarily serve? Sumter County and surrounding areas primarily, but we're happy to help anyone.

What have you found about your customers in Sumter? People in Sumter are very supportive as long as you're doing your part and providing quality goods and services.

What's your favorite thing about being here? I enjoy the health and wellness aspects.



Lorenza Bowen
Owner, Zebra Custom Design, Inc.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

Where are you from originally?

Born and raised in Milwaukee, WI.

How many employees work at Coca-Cola Consolidated? Approximately 160 employees work at this location.

What do you like best working for South Atlantic Cannery? The opportunity to grow within my position and the company.

What skills are needed to work At SAC?
Depends on the job position. For my position customer service and Microsoft Office skills are very important

What things do you like to do locally? High School sporting events, restaurants and shopping



Annette Karlinsky, Office Coordinator
South Atlantic Cannery/Coca-Cola Consolidated, Inc.

Employment is HERE!

Cost Of Living

A lower cost of living provides the freedom to choose. Offering quality and affordable homes, the region boasts an 86% cost of living expense that falls below the national average; that means your dollars stretch further **HERE**.

Safety

HERE Safety is not just a concern, it's a priority. Seasoned, well-trained law enforcement connects with the community to implement programs to promote positive interaction, but also stand at the ready to respond as necessary to ensure order is maintained. This region has seen a sharp reduction in crimes over the last 10 years.

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Security and safety in Sumter County is a community effort as law enforcement and citizens rely on each other to prevent crime and to solve crime. Sumter County Sheriff's Office partners with local schools, churches and organizations to discuss security and safety through numerous programs and outreach projects. Through these interactions, our deputies build rapport and trust with citizens who feel comfortable voicing their concerns and providing tips, and who are confident that we are working hard for them.

Sheriff Anthony Dennis

”



Sheriff Anthony Dennis
Sumter County



Chief Russell F. Roark III
City of Sumter



Sheriff Daniel Simon
Lee County



Chief Calvin Collins
City of Bishopville



Situated in the heart of South Carolina, since 1798, Sumter County has been a major staple for agriculture, tourism, and industry. Now with the addition of a military installation it's the ideal location for individuals and businesses to thrive.



22.3 Minutes
Commute Time



\$43,792
Median Household
Income



\$113,900
Median Household
Value



106,995
Population



47,636
Labor Force



87.9 %
Cost of living Index
of the US Average

Largest Employers

1. Shaw Air Force Base.....8,524
2. Sumter School District.....3,070
3. Prisma Health Tuomey.....1,800
4. Continental Tire.....1,400
5. Thompson Family of Companies.....1,360

Occupational Breakdown

1. Manufacturing.....6,483
2. Health Care and Social Assistance.....5,971
3. Retail Trade.....4,672
4. Accommodation & Food Services.....3,695
5. Construction.....2,528



Located with direct access to Interstate 20, Bishopville, the county seat of Lee County was settled in the early 1800's. Lee County is now South Carolina's largest cotton-producing county and home to the South Carolina Cotton Museum.



26.8 Minutes
Commute Time



\$33,350
Median Household
Income



\$69,800
Median Household
Value



17,142
Population



565,947
Labor Force within 45
Mile Radius



79 %
Cost of living Index
of the US Average

Largest Employers

1. S.C. Department of Corrections.....284
2. Lee County School District.....250
3. Lee County Administration.....200
4. Crown Health Care Laundry.....166
5. Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated.....155

Occupational Breakdown

1. Public Administration.....673
2. Health Care & Social Assistance.....562
3. Retail Trade.....439
4. Manufacturing.....411
5. Educational Services.....381



An Economic Development Alliance Representing
Lee and Sumter Counties, South Carolina

www.TheLINKsc.com | 803.418.0702 | 800.888.7926

