

Beaufort Digital Corridor

The Beaufort Digital Corridor (BDC) is a creative effort to attract, nurture and promote Beaufort's technology entrepreneurs through a combination of technology-enabled initiatives and business incentives, private business support and member-driven programming.

There are four main lines of our strategy:

- **Spaces:** low-cost, high-energy, short-lease spaces to give teams a home while they launch
- **Community:** networking and events draw together Beaufort's tech-minded resources
- **Talent:** building a network of local resources and students from SC universities and colleges
- **Capital:** accelerated growth, angel investors, and contributors are part of our network

Live Work Mentor Program

One of our key programs is our collegiate 'Live Work Mentor' summer program. We had a great launch in 2018 with a team from College of Charleston's 'ImpactX' entrepreneurship program and have now had two teams participate over two summers: 'PollPit', a digital-town-hall app; and 'Life Launcher', a web-based platform addressing student debt.

Live Work Mentor targets a key demographic Beaufort is seeking to attract and retain, and the selection process helps funnel the best and brightest to Beaufort. The program is two months (Jun/Jul), and provides a vibrant, focused environment for the college company to accelerate their business idea. With local support, the teams had access to business and other experts in Beaufort.

The BDC delivers peer and mentor assistance, and side-by-side partnership to the teams throughout their residency to assist their progress during the program. Some key successes for the teams (and Beaufort):

- Retained development staff for their product
- Completed or made significant headway with professional business plan
- Produced or made significant headway towards MVP (minimum viable product)
- Accelerated and/or began fundraising efforts
- Collegians that now love Beaufort and have taken that message back to their University
- Strong foundation built with College of Charleston ImpactX program, with interest from other colleges and universities

Sponsorship

One of the principles of success for the program is that the cost of **office space** was sponsored by organizations in Beaufort, and therefore at no expense to the students. The Rotary Club of the Lowcountry was the first sponsor in this effort. The University of South Carolina Beaufort Student Housing has provided discounted **living arrangements**, and this cost can be sponsored as well. We would like to attract multiple teams over future summers, and we are looking to other Beaufort organizations to catch the vision and help provide sponsorships for the two-month program.

- The cost to sponsor the office space for one Collegiate team is \$2000
- The cost to sponsor student housing is \$600/student (teams of 3-4 students)

We are actively seeking partners in Beaufort to help bring these young companies to Beaufort. If you are interested, please call or email.