

### From the Director

When 2020 began, I was more optimistic than usual anticipating the start of a new decade. But then, out of seemingly nowhere, the COVID-19 pandemic struck everyone and created a real sense of despair – we were suddenly faced with a global health crisis on a scale the world has never seen. Mercifully, companies and governments around the globe rolled up their sleeves, got to work and accomplished something truly remarkable, successfully developing multiple vaccines in less than a year, a process that typically takes five to ten years.

Now, as 2020 comes to a close, I am again sincerely optimistic about the year ahead as I reflect on two things - the important role technology is playing in our daily lives and the true meaning of innovation (creating value in a new way). Have a safe and wonderful holiday.

### Staff Update

We are growing! Elaine Whitfield has joined our team as Operations Manager. Elaine has been in and around our tech industry for many years. and is looking forward to bringing her experience, amazing work ethic and customer centric approach to extending the success of Charleston's tech community.

### COMMUNITY



While you may be missing [in-person events](#) offered by the CDC, you can look forward to having them back in 2021. For our part, throughout this year, we have sought input and feedback from our companies to learn how we can better serve the tech community. With all the terrific comments and ideas offered, we have been heads down improving our current programs and working on new initiatives including the development of a business and technical learning center at the CTC, a new diversity initiative and connecting entrepreneurs and vetted professionals more efficiently.

We have also continued our [Leadership Profile](#) series so be sure to check out the three most recent profiles featuring Uncommon Giving's, [Earl Bridges](#); Vikor Scientific co-founder, [Shea Harrelson](#) and 3Together's [Jessica Brewer](#).

### TALENT



We all know that talent is the backbone of a knowledge economy. While we have made tremendous gains in attracting and developing talent in Charleston, we continue to explore ways to help our companies become more successful by raising the game. Enter, CDCu. That's right! Working with our tech community and partners, we will soon offer year-round classes of relevant business and tech subjects that will be taught by local professionals at the Flagship. If you have a compelling presentation or content ideas and would be interested in joining the "Faculty" at CDCu, [let's talk](#).

### SPACES



After successfully developing five workspaces for our tech community, the [Flagship @ the Charleston Tech Center](#) is being readied for occupancy in February 2021. This facility is truly unique in that it will include a dedicated 10GB symmetric fiber data connection, UV and MERV 15 filtered ventilation and a host of cool amenities that will have you itching to ditch the jammies, leave home and get back to the way things were pre-pandemic.

Among the many amenities, the Flagship will include a podcast studio, nap room, video/phone booths, showers, outdoor ping pong and well-equipped conference/training rooms – all generously supported by terrific companies and partners including [Boomtown](#), [Workiva](#), [Iron Bridge Capital Partners](#), [Vikor Scientific](#), [Synovus](#), [James Kuyk, Esq.](#), [Charleston County Economic Development](#) and [Comcast](#). We are still looking for sponsors so [ping me](#) if you would like to sponsor an item at the Flagship.

While the [CTC](#) is already [leasing up](#) faster than anticipated, I invite you contact me if you have an interest in securing your spot in the Flagship or in any other available workspaces in Charleston's new state-of-the-art tech center.

### CAPITAL



Congratulations to [Uncommon Giving](#) on successfully raising approximately \$20 million including a \$13.5 founders round. We are pleased to see Flagship alum, Earl Bridges, named as President of the new company.

### Members & Investors

As a public-private partnership we are grateful and honored for the members of our tech community, public agencies and private citizens who steadfastly support the mission of the Charleston Digital Corridor. Our supporters include:

[Synovus](#)  
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[Charleston County Economic Development](#)

[Comcast](#)  
[SCGasTaxCredit.com](#)  
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### Our Sponsors



### Flagship

The [Flagship](#) business incubator at the Charleston Tech Center in Downtown Charleston is a landmark office developed to serve the exclusive needs of tech and life-science companies in the Charleston region. Scheduled to open January 2021, [email me](#) to learn more or grab a tour.



### Thank you!

Thank you for your continued support of the Charleston Digital Corridor. Our collective achievements are a reflection of your unwavering commitment and and collaboration. Continued success!

– Ernest Andrade, Director

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