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## **Top State Officials Brief SCEDA Members At Meeting**

**COLUMBIA, Feb. 22, 2012** – The executive director of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce and deputy director of the S.C. Department of Commerce were among those giving reports to state economic development experts at the S.C. Economic Developers' Association (SCEDA) membership meeting Tuesday at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

Abraham Turner assured members “the Department of Employment and Workforce is not the same Department of Employment and Workforce you once knew” and said that job training and increasing the labor pool would be priorities. George Patrick said the Department of Commerce is off to a good start this year in terms of job creation and is working on a more coordinated approach to helping small businesses.

SCEDA members also heard from S.C. Rep. Rick Quinn (R-Lexington), Jack Shuler, president of the Palmetto Agribusiness Council, and Marion Crawford, president of the marketing and communications company Crawford Strategy. Chuck Bundy of the Department of Commerce, Agata Chydzinski of the USC-Columbia Technology Incubator and Greg Clark of the S.C. Research Authority participated in a panel discussion on small business and entrepreneurship.

### **About SCEDA**

Since 1965, the S.C. Economic Developers' Association has served as the Voice of Economic Development in the Palmetto State. A professional trade association of more than 565 members, with representation from all 46 counties, SCEDA includes local and regional economic developers, as well as officials from municipal, county and state government agencies, construction and engineering firms, utility companies, attorneys, consultants, financial institutions, and higher education.

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