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South Carolina—Rural Business Service

Community Building

Piedmont Tech Expands McCormick County Campus

Outline Of Need:

Piedmont Technical College (PTC) needed funding to connect the McCormick County center to a unique fiber optic interactive network called the Piedmont Educational Network (PEN) and to relocate the PTC McCormick County Center to a larger facility.

How Rural Development Helped:

RD provided a \$500,000 REDL zero-interest loan to West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. who, in turn, passed through this \$500,000 zero-interest loan to PTC to relocate and renovate their McCormick County Center.

The McCormick County School District donated the facility to PTC and through this collaborative partnering, funds were made available for renovation of 7000 sq. ft. for classroom/administrative space, site work/improvements, architectural /engineering fees, purchase of equipment, and relocation expenses.



Piedmont Technical College McCormick County Center held a grand opening event on 05/10/2011 and will begin offering classes for the summer semester.

The Results:

The PTC McCormick County Center moved from a 2200 sq. ft. log cabin constructed during the Great Depression to a larger facility, which was renovated and updated with PEN classrooms allowing students to participate in classes locally instead of having to commute to the main campus over 30 miles away.

The PTC McCormick County Center held a grand opening event on 05/10/2011. Classes will be available the summer semester at the new facility.

PTC will be able to offer a more expanded program with computer centers available to students and the public, which will provide much-needed broadband access.

This project will have a positive impact on the citizens of this rural community through technical job skills which will improve their employment opportunities and will also provide an economic boost for potential industrial growth.

Fast Facts

Program: Business Programs

Investment: \$500,000 REDL Loan

Partners: McCormick County School District, Piedmont Technical College, Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative.

Congressional District: SC-3

Demographics

McCormick Unemployment Rate: 15.7%

Impact:

- McCormick County residents will be able to attend class locally and obtain technical job skills for better paying jobs.