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▶ **UPDATES**

Welcome to e-news for NEXT

NEXT is the resource collaborative that specializes in developing the region's fast-growth entrepreneurial sector. The mission of NEXT is to create a new culture of entrepreneurship in the region and dramatically increase the number and quality of fast-growth, entrepreneurial companies headquartered in our region. NEXT pursues three key initiatives to achieve its mission: client services to technology-based entrepreneurs; infrastructure; and voice/advocacy.

NEXT Reflects on Successful First Year

On January 23, 2006, the Greenville Chamber, in collaboration with the City of Greenville, Clemson University's Spiro Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership, the Small Business Development Center, Greenville Technical College's Buck Mickel Center and InnoVenture LLC, launched NEXT, a major new initiative to support technology entrepreneurship in Greenville.

In one short year, NEXT has seen tremendous success as it works to provide concierge services (client services), advocacy services and infrastructure services. NEXT entrepreneurs have grown from 12 active members to 32 active members in late 2006, participating in monthly best practice forums and social events. The initiative also developed NEXT Connection, a new forum connecting entrepreneurs to community leaders. In addition, through NEXT, Greenville is one of 60 live viewing sites worldwide for global entrepreneur learning forums broadcast by MIT (The Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

As we enter 2007, NEXT announces that the Clemson University Research Foundation, the Center for International Trade and SCLaunch! of the South Carolina Research Authority have joined the collaboration. These and all of the NEXT partners look forward to even more success in the new year.

For additional information, contact Brenda Laakso at 864-239-3711 .

▶ **EVENT CALENDAR**

NEXT MIT Enterprise Forum "Financial Markets: Outlook 2007" Money. You need it. They have it. How do you get it? Join a world-class panel that will examine at a macro level the flow of money for the coming year, answering such questions as: what are outlooks for VC, public & M&A markets; what is general outlook for local, national, global economy for 2007; what structural & regulatory issues will pull & shape the capital markets over coming year; how will all of these affect a company's financial strategies? Panelists include: Liz Claman, CNBC's Morning Call; Axel Bichara '88, sr. partner, Atlas Ventures; Benjamin Howe, CEO, America's Growth Capital; Frederick Lane, CEO, Lane, Berry & Co., Deborah Kuentner, director of research, Fidelity Investments. Entrepreneurs and MIT alumni are invited to view the global broadcast. **Monday, February 19 (11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) Greenville Chamber Board Room. PLEASE RSVP by Wednesday, February 14, contacting Ginger McKenzie at 239-3708 or by**

email: gmckenzie@greenvillechamber.org

NEXT Best Practices Forum : Corporate Structures This monthly forum brings together the principals of fast-growth technology companies to share insights around common issues their companies face. This month we will meet at the Greenville Chamber in the Board Room. By invitation only. **March 5 (12:00 -1:30 p.m.), Greenville Chamber, Board Room. PLEASE RSVP by Wednesday, Feb. 28, contacting Ginger McKenzie at 239-3708 or by email: gmckenzie@greenvillechamber.org**

InnoVenture 2007 – An Open Innovation Forum of Win/Win Collaborations
When 700 of the smartest, most talented innovators, in the Southeast meet in one place for two days and are given every opportunity to meet, share ideas, needs, resources and goals...Sparks Will Fly. InnoVenture 2007 promises to be a veritable explosion of OPEN INNOVATION ideas & profitable exchanges between professionals from diverse business cultures—all sharing a common goal: to create better solutions faster. Count yourself in among the entrepreneurs, inventors, corporate leaders, & investors from 18+ states coming together as one giant creative force. **Tuesday, March 27 & Wednesday, March 28, The Carolina First Center (formerly Palmetto Expo), Greenville, S.C. To register, go to www.InnoVentureSE.com**

For more information on the services of NEXT partner organizations, visit: NEXTGreenville.com

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