



Ten Counties. One Upstate. Stronger Together.



**Where We Have Been.
Where We Are Now.
Where We Are Going.**

Founding Board Members

These individuals were involved at some point during the development of the organization as Upstate Together or during the development of the Upstate Reality Check and then once incorporated as Ten at the Top remained involved as a board member, funding partner or committee member through at least the end of 2011.

Irv Welling, III, Founding Chairman – Elliott Davis
Ingo Angermeier – Spartanburg Regional Health System
Richard Baines – Broad River Electric
Bill Barnet – Mayor, City of Spartanburg
Carol Burdette – United Way of Anderson
Foster Chapman – Johnson Development Corporation
Jim Coleman – Chairman, Laurens County Council
Jim Cook – Cherokee County Economic Development
Charles Dalton – Blue Ridge Electric
Rick Danner – Mayor, City of Greer
Thornwell Dunlap, III - Countybank
Michael Forrester – Spartanburg Community College
Don Gordon – Furman University Riley Institute
Ben Haskew – Greenville Chamber of Commerce
Phil Hughes – Hughes Investments
Torance Inman – Union County Chamber of Commerce
Hal Johnson – Upstate Alliance
Henry Jolly – Mayor, City of Gaffney
Lee Luff – Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce
Erwin Maddrey - Maddrey & Associates
Hank McCullough – Piedmont Natural Gas
John Miller – AnMed Health
Steve Navarro – Furman Company
Dr. Barry Nocks – Clemson University

Company or organization listed reflects representative entity during primary involvement

Steve Pelissier – Appalachian Council of Governments
Judy Prince – USC Upstate
Terence Roberts – Mayor, City of Anderson
Minor Shaw – Micco Corporation
Russell Stall – Greenville Forward
John Stockwell – USC Upstate
Gerald Sweitzer – Pickens Vision 2025
Bogue Wallin – Pacolet Milliken
Jeanne Ward – Oconee Medical Center
Brad Wyche – Upstate Forever
Neal Workman – Trehel Corporation



Our Story So Far...

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In 2005, more than 300 leaders from across the Upstate attended a conference called Upstate Together: Growing by Choice or Chance. Following this event, a steering committee of approximately 40 leaders from across region was created under the same name. Over the next four years, that ad hoc group worked to promote the idea of regionalism and cross-sector collaboration across the Upstate region.

The culmination of their activities occurred in 2009 with more than 400 regional leaders participating in the Upstate Reality Check, which was conducted in partnership with the Urban Land Institute and was a one-day exercise looking at how leaders envisioned future growth in the Upstate.

Following that event, Upstate Together was renamed Ten at the Top and formalized as a non-profit organization.

The current phase of work began in January 2010 following the selection of Dean Hybl, previously a Program Manager for myregion.org in Central Florida, as Executive Director.

Since 2010, Ten at the Top has focused on fostering collaboration and building regional trust and partnerships across the Upstate on issues that impact economic vitality and quality of life.

We've gathered some highlights from the past five years here, along with our 2015 focus and strategies for moving forward.



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REGIONAL VISION PROJECT LAUNCHED

Ten at the Top launched the Ten Counties, One Upstate, Your Voice Matters: Creating a Shared Upstate Growth Vision campaign. Over the next year, more than 10,000 Upstate residents provided input and feedback through community meetings, surveys and workshops across the Upstate.



FIRST-EVER UPSTATE ELECTED OFFICIALS MEETING HELD

In partnership with other regional organizations, TATT hosted the first-ever Upstate Elected Officials Meeting. Since 2010, the regional partners have hosted 10 sessions in which Upstate elected officials and business leaders have discussed key regional issues including transportation, water, economic development, community vibrancy and workforce.



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OUR UPSTATE VISION UNVEILED

The Our Upstate Vision was unveiled during a Regional Vision Summit in April 2011. Following the unveiling, five regional task forces were developed to identify actions in the five driver areas of the vision: human potential, economic and entrepreneurial vitality, sustainable growth, natural beauty and resources and community vibrancy.

TATT RECOGNIZED BY THE ALLIANCE FOR REGIONAL STEWARDSHIP

Ten at the Top is recognized by the Alliance for Regional Stewardship as a finalist for their Organizational Champions award. Dean Hybl and Lee Luff, TATT Founding Board Member and then-President of the Anderson Chamber of Commerce, represented Ten at the Top during the awards program at the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in Los Angeles.



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TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATIONS SIGN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Through efforts of Ten at the Top and other local organizations, the elected boards of the Greenville Pickens Area Transportation Study (GPATS) and the Spartanburg Area Transportation Study (SPATS) approved a memorandum of understanding that also included the Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG). This partnership allowed the staffs to formally partner on projects, grants and planning opportunities. In 2014, the organizations began working collaboratively to identify how to utilize funds available through the SCDOT corridor plan to reduce congestion along I-85.

UPSTATE PROFESSIONAL PLANNERS GROUP CREATED


All Upstate counties are served by one or more planning agency, either through their municipalities, counties or Councils of Government. In addition, there are many planners working as consultants and for builders, engineering firms and other private companies across the region. Since 2012, Ten at the Top has coordinated regular meetings of the Upstate Professional Planners Group to build relationships and discuss issues of mutual interest. In 2014, the group was actively involved in the Upstate Comprehensive Plan Review project.

UPSTATE INFORMATION HUB PROVIDES REGIONAL INFORMATION REPOSITORY

After several task forces identified difficulty in locating resources and events from across the Upstate as a regional challenge, Ten at the Top created the Upstate Information Hub through a grant from the Graham Foundation. The Hub (www.ourupstatesc.info) is a repository of resources and events. It includes links to more than 1,000 organizations or initiatives and the comprehensive regional calendar regularly lists more than 250 events and activities happening across the Upstate.

REGIONAL FORUMS PROVIDE VENUE FOR CULTIVATING CONVERSATIONS

After previously hosting an annual regional summit, in 2012 Ten at the Top began hosting quarterly regional forums with each one focused on a different issue related to economic vitality or quality of life in the Upstate. With an average attendance of 150 stakeholders from across the region, the forums have become a great way to build awareness and discussion on key issues impacting the Upstate. Topics that have been covered at regional forums include workforce & skill development, developing a knowledge based culture, transportation & infrastructure, current and future senior needs, creating a family-friendly community, natural resources and community vibrancy.



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UPSTATE UNITED WAYS CREATE BORN LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Through the neutral convening of Ten at the Top, leaders from the seven United Ways in the Upstate developed a regional partnership to create a regional messaging program around the importance of early childhood education called Born Learning Upstate. The partnership, which marks the first time the seven United Ways in the region have ever partnered from beginning to completion on an initiative, included each entity providing both staff time and financial resources to the regional effort.

The Born Learning Upstate Campaign was launched in October 2013 and includes a Born Learning Upstate



web site, Born Learning Trails, material in doctor's offices and public service messaging on media outlets throughout the region.

COMMUNITY VIBRANCY WORKSHOPS HIGHLIGHT GREAT IDEAS

Knowing that there are many communities across the state and country doing great initiatives that grow the community and economic vibrancy within their area, the TATT Community Vibrancy Task Force partnered with urban policy and planning classes at USC Upstate to identify "great ideas" to share with leaders in the Upstate. After identifying 50 examples of vibrancy creating projects, Ten at the Top invited 10 leaders representing some of the initiatives to come to the Upstate for a two-day series of workshops held at four locations across the region. More than 275 Upstate residents participated in the workshops.

CLEAN AIR UPSTATE FOCUSES ON REDUCING EMISSIONS

Looking to increase awareness of the importance of reducing air polluting emissions, the Upstate Air Quality Advisory Committee, which is coordinated by TATT, developed the Clean Air Upstate campaign. It included a public awareness campaign that was led by Duke Energy, WSPA-TV, GSA Business and Bon Secours St. Francis Health System as well as on-the-ground initiatives to reduce emissions. As part of the campaign, the number of schools in the Upstate participating in the Breathe Better (B2) no-idling program has nearly tripled from 14 schools in 2012 to 36 in 2015. Thanks to the efforts of many across the region, the ozone monitors in the Upstate have all seen significant reductions in emission levels over the last three years. This progress is in advance of the new EPA guidelines tentatively proposed, and under review for enactment.

ELEVATE UPSTATE GRANTS PROVIDE COMMUNITIES WITH SEED FUNDING

Building on the work done to develop the "great ideas" list of community vibrancy initiatives, Upstate developer Phil Hughes worked through Ten at the Top to develop the Hughes Investments Elevate Upstate Community Vibrancy Grants Program to provide local communities with seed funding to develop local vibrancy initiatives. During the first two years of the program, there have been a total of 53 grant applications with Hughes providing a total of \$28,000 in funding. The first three grants of \$5,000 each were awarded in 2013 for initiatives in the City of Greer, City of Seneca and City of Anderson. The 2014 Elevate Upstate Grants were given to the City of Laurens and the City of Travelers Rest. In addition, Hughes provided the other three finalists, the City of Clinton, City of Pickens and City of Gaffney with \$1,000 each to enhance their vibrancy initiatives. Hughes has committed to support the grants program at least through 2017.

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COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW LOOKS AT HOW WE ARE GROWING AS A REGION

Comprehensive plans are local governments statement of land development policy for five to 20 year periods. Most jurisdictions in the Upstate have a comprehensive plan, which is required in South Carolina if a locality wishes to enact land regulation such as zoning. In partnership with the Clemson University Masters in City & Regional Planning program, TATT and the Upstate Professional Planners Group spent the 2014 Fall semester doing a regional analysis of local comprehensive plans to identify future growth hot spots, growth policies, key issues perceived to effect growth and change and the degree of current or potential coordination at the borders of various localities across the region. The analysis will be used in 2015 to generate discussions around how we are growing and whether we currently have the strategies in place to ensure future growth is in a thoughtful and financially viable manner, rather than in a pattern that is unsustainable and promotes sprawl and congestion.



EFFORTS STARTED THROUGH TEN AT THE TOP MOVING FORWARD

Since TATT's role is to serve as the initial convener, rather than as the ultimate "doer" organization, initiatives cultivated through Ten at the Top often move forward under the direction of others. In 2014, two examples of that dynamic continued to move towards fruition. One was the Entrepreneurial Friendly Tool Kit, which was an effort initially developed by the TATT Economic & Entrepreneurial Vitality Task Force. Now coordinated by the Appalachian Council of Governments, this process to develop an online resource tool kit for communities looking to cultivate entrepreneurship started with pilot projects in the City of Pickens and Oconee County. The online tool kit will be available in 2015.

The other effort is Greenville CAN (Collaborative Action Network), which is focused on making life better for individuals with special needs and disabilities in Greenville County. The original catalyst for what is now Greenville CAN started in 2013 when the Barbara Stone Foundation asked TATT to convene and facilitate a meeting of organizations that support individuals with disabilities and special needs. Throughout 2014, the network started to develop through a support grant from the Barbara Stone Foundation. In 2015 the effort has received additional funding and support that has allowed it to hire a full-time staff coordinator and move forward with a number of efforts to continue growing capacity that enhances the opportunities for individuals with special needs and disabilities.

TATT AND THE RUTLAND INSTITUTE DEVELOP VALUES BASED LEADERSHIP GROUP

Recognizing the connection between ethics, integrity, and business and workforce development, the Clemson University Rutland Institute for Ethics and Ten at the Top developed the Values Based Leadership Group for CEO's and Administrators. Meeting quarterly, the group



explores a different component of business each session and discusses how ethics and integrity play a role in the decision making process related to various aspects of business including developing a corporate culture, onboarding of employees, evaluations, conflict resolution, employee compensation and relationships with customers.



South Carolina Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt was the 2014 recipient of the Welling Award for Regional Collaboration.

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MORE THAN 800 GATHER FOR UPSTATE REGIONAL SUMMIT

In the largest gathering ever hosted by Ten at the Top, more than 800 Upstate leaders gathered for the Upstate Regional Summit: Rechecking Our Reality on September 16th. Focusing on "What's Next?" as we look at current and future growth in the Upstate, the Summit provided an opportunity for stakeholders to share their input on what issues, challenges and opportunities they believe must be addressed for the Upstate to reach its full potential as a leading place to live, learn, do business and raise a family.

Upstate Regional Summit Key Themes

Transportation

- Fix Roads & Bridges
- Increase access to Transit
- Reduce Congestion (moving people & goods)

Education & Training

- Connect Students to Careers/Jobs
- Grow Mentoring Networks
- Build on Successful Programs

Entrepreneurs & Workforce

- Increase access to capital at all levels
- Maximize entrepreneur networks
- Grow communications & connections between workforce organizations, education & businesses

Collaboration

- Provide opportunities for connecting with others doing similar things across the region
- Maximize & leverage our regional power
- Promote regionally the assets & programs we have

Promotion & Awareness

- Reduce duplication by maximizing awareness of the programs that already exist
- Create lists, assess programs & initiatives that are currently underway
- Work regionally to promote our regional assets, tourist attractions, etc.



Regional Outreach & Event Participation

2014
Event &
Initiative
Participation



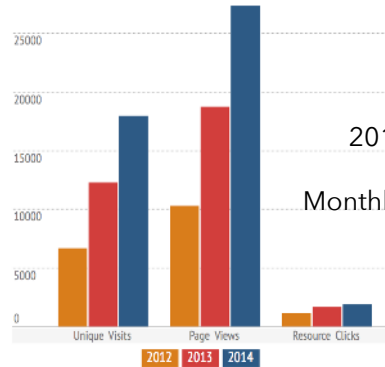
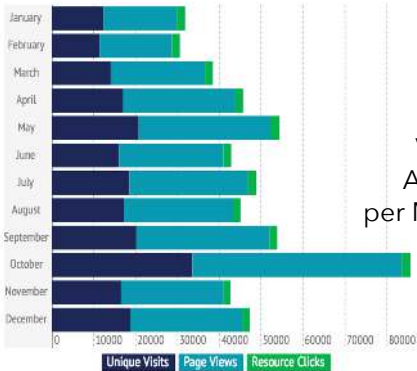
Overall
Outreach &
Engagement



Annual Summary Data - Regional Outreach & Engagement

	Presentations		Regional Forums/Workshops		Program or Initiative Meetings		TATT Meetings		Regional Surveys		Total Engagement	
	Participants	Events	Participants	Events	Participants	Events	Participants	Events	Participants	Events	Participants	Events
2010	1,343	34	1,250	14	180	5	195	11	6,646	2	9,614	66
2011	1,431	38	755	4	743	31	263	11	128	1	3,320	85
2012	567	14	966	7	805	38	255	12	218	3	2,811	74
2013	927	22	1,116	10	693	38	248	17	316	10	3,300	97
2014	520	22	1,251	7	952	52	250	10	1,059	5	4,032	96
Total	4,788	130	5,338	42	3,373	164	1,211	61	8,367	21	23,077	418

Upstate Information Hub Website Activity



The Ten at the Top Team

Officers

Carol Burdette (Chair)
United Way of Anderson County

Neal Workman (Immediate Past Chair)
Trehel Corporation

Hank McCullough (First Vice Chair)
Piedmont Natural Gas

Sue Schneider (Second Vice Chair)
Spartanburg Water

Lisa Jones (Secretary)
GSA Business

Erwin Maddrey (Treasurer)
Maddrey & Associates

Samuel Erwin (Development Co-chair)
The Palmetto Bank

Terence Roberts (Development Co-chair)
City of Anderson



Staff

Dean Hybl
Executive Director

Ashley Downing
Communications Manager

Tiffany Tate
Program Manager

Board of Directors

Ingo Angermeier – SmartPulse
Rebecca Barnes - Pacolet Milliken Enterprises
David Bereskin - Greenville Water
Karen L. Burgess - Brown Mackie College
John Campbell, Jr.- Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough, LLP
Howell Clyborne - Greenville Hospital System
James A. Coleman - Laurens County Council
Jim Cook - Cherokee County Development Board
Paul Corbeil - Oconee County Council
Michael Cunningham - AnMed System
Charles Dalton - Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative
Rick Danner - City of Greer
Chandra Dillard - SC House of Representatives
Jim Donahoo - Laurens Electric Cooperative
Thornwell Dunlap - Countybank
Dave Edwards - GSP Airport
Michael Forrester - Spartanburg Community College
Don Gordon - The Riley Institute, Furman University
Patricia Hartung - Upper Savannah Council of Governments
Todd Horne - Clayton Construction Company, Inc.
Phil Hughes - Hughes Investments, Inc.
Randy Imler - Catawba Regional Council of Governments
Torance Inman - Union County Chamber of Commerce
Hal Johnson - NAI Earle Furman
Angelle LaBorde - Greenwood SC Chamber of Commerce

Nate Lipscomb - Greenville Drive Baseball
Lee Logan - Town of Due West
Evelyn Lugo - SC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Tom Moore - USC Upstate
Barry Nocks - Clemson University
Tom O'Hanlan - Sealevel Systems, Inc.
Steve Pelissier - Appalachian Council of Governments
R.P. Rama - JHM Hotels
Angel Rodriguez - Genesis Surgical Solutions
Jim Roman – CBRE
Mike Ruhe - Duke Energy
Jim Shew - BlueCross BlueShield of SC
James Taylor - City of Gaffney
Harold E. Thompson - City of Union
John Verreault - TD Bank
Irv Welling - Welling Strategic
Erik Whaley - Bon Secours St. Francis
Frank J. Wideman, III - The Self Family Foundation
Douglas Wilson - Broad River Electric Co-op.
Ann M. Wright - American Red Cross of Upstate SC
Brad Wyche - Upstate Forever



2014 Funding Partners

Regional Visionary: BlueCross BlueShield SC

Regional Stewards: GSA Business, Greenville News, Upstate Business Journal, WSPA-TV

Regional Benefactor: Greenville Health System

Regional Partners: AnMed Health, Business BlackBox, The Daniel Mickel Foundation, Fluor, Fairway Outdoors, Greenville Business Magazine

Regional Sponsors: Baptist Easley Hospital, Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, BMW Manufacturing, Brown Mackie College, Clemson University, Elliott Davis, Greenville Water, Hughes Investments, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, Erwin Maddrey, Oconee County, Pacolet Milliken, Palmetto Technology Group, Piedmont Natural Gas, PMPA, Sealevel Systems, Spartanburg Water, TD Bank, Trehel Corporation

Regional Advocates:

Barnet Development Corporation, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc, Broad River Electric Cooperative, Inc., Craig Brown, CBRE, Community Works Carolina, City of Greer, GSP International Airport, Hughes Agency, City of Mauldin, The Palmetto Bank, Regions Bank, Rutland Institute for Ethics at Clemson, ScanSource, Self Regional Healthcare, SYNEX Corporation, Irv Welling, World Acceptance Corporation

Regional Patrons: Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Anderson, Canal Insurance, Carol Burdette, Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce, Coldwell Banker Caine, Community Foundation of Greenville, Countybank, Easley Chamber of Commerce, Furman University, Gallivan, White, & Boyd, Genesis Surgical Solutions, Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce, Greenville Technical College, Johnson Development Associates, KPMG, LLP, Laurens Electric Cooperative, Laurens County Chamber of Commerce, Nate Lipscomb, Marchant Company Inc., McMillan Pazdan Smith, John & Julie Miller, Professional Mortgage Company, Minor Shaw, Self Family Foundation, Spartanburg County Foundation, Seamon Whiteside & Associates, South Carolina Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce, Spartanburg Community College, Tri-County Technical College, Union County Chamber of Commerce, Upstate WIB, USC Upstate, Brad Wyche



Contributing Gifts: Ann & Ingo Angermeier, Paul C. Aughtry III, Paul Corbeil, Rick Danner, Sam Erwin, Mike Forrester, Henry Jolly, Hank McCullough, Barry Nocks, Terence Roberts, West Carolina Telephone, Neal Workman



2015 Organizational Focus & Strategies

Connecting

Convening stakeholders from across the Upstate to build relationships and foster opportunities for collaboration and partnerships

Communicating

Increasing awareness of existing programs and initiatives across the Upstate as well as facilitating dialogue on key issues facing the region

Capacity

Building understanding of how organizations, programs and initiatives are currently addressing key issues across the Upstate and focusing on identifying gaps and promoting best practices

Continuing Role as a Neutral Regional Convener

- Upstate Elected Officials Meetings
- Regional School Superintendents & School Boards Meeting
- Capital providers networking opportunity
- Other opportunities to connect stakeholders


Continuing to Build Capacity & Awareness

- Upstate Information Hub (www.ourupstatesc.info)
- Quarterly Regional Forums
- "Exploring the Upstate" Quarterly County Bus Tour
- Partnering with Greenville Business Magazine on an Upstate Regional Report
- Begin preparations for the 2016 Upstate Regional Summit

Task Forces & Committees Continue Meeting

- Identifying & moving forward on regional issues
- Building lists of what exists in the Upstate around specific issues with goal of identifying best practices and gaps
- Continuing to ask "What's Next Upstate?" (www.whatsNextUpstate.com)

Understanding & Measuring What We Have

- Completing & Reporting Regional Comprehensive Plan Review
 - Building Partnerships to increase regional measurements of key issues and whether the needle is being moved
- 



Ten Counties. One Upstate. Stronger Together.

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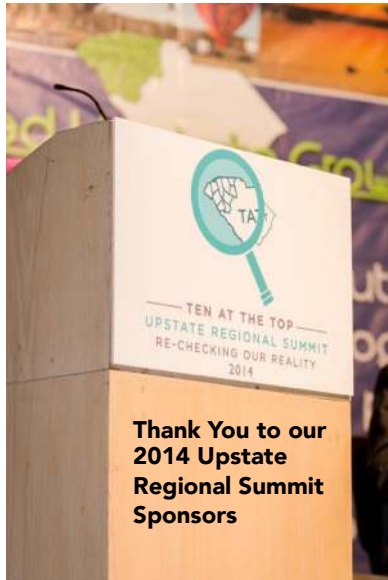
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