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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TCCC announces new Convener for High School Graduation Network**

*The Boeing Company agrees to lead group*

North Charleston, SC - **The Boeing Company** has agreed to serve as Convener for Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative's High School Graduation Network, replacing the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, which stepped down from the post in May.

"We at Boeing are firm believers that all members of the community can and should be engaged in assuring high-quality education for all students and college and career readiness for our high school graduates," Boeing South Carolina Senior Manager of Global Corporate Citizenship **Jessica Jackson** said. "We must ensure that students develop and learn the skills needed to work in a globally competitive environment. The High School Graduation Network is already working hard to achieve that vision, and we look forward to participating in this new capacity."

Jackson will chair the Guiding Team and the High School Graduation Network when it convenes in September.

The High School Graduation Network is made up of educators, administrators, business executives, government officials and leaders from nonprofit, health, faith-based and philanthropic organizations. Using TCCC's collective-impact approach, the network's goal is to facilitate large-scale, systemic change in the tri-county region's high school graduation rate.

"We are grateful for this commitment of leadership from Boeing, and our team looks forward to providing the data and facilitation support needed to 'move the needle.' The ultimate goal is for every child in our region to graduate from high school prepared for either further education or employment in the modern workforce," said **Anita Zucker**, CEO of The InterTech Group and chair of the TCCC Board of Directors.

The need for focused efforts was evident in Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative's latest Regional Education Report, which found that the region's 2016 high school graduation rate was 84%. That rate is on par with the national average; however, only 35% of tri-county high school graduates are ready for college-level work and 67% are ready for work.

Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative will support the High School Graduation Network by offering the assistance of a trained facilitator to help guide the collaborative process. Network partners will also have access to established research, community-specific data and local perspectives to investigate what is helping and hurting high school graduation rates.

"We certainly applaud the continued rise in graduation rates across the tri-county. Too often, though, our graduates are not prepared to meet local workforce demands," TCCC CEO **John C. Read** said. "Our High School Graduation Network, under the leadership of The Boeing Company, will be encouraged to identify problems, recommend strategies and develop new programs to address any unmet needs."

~ more ~

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[www.TriCountyCradleToCareer.org](http://www.TriCountyCradleToCareer.org)

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The Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, which convened the network for the past two years, had asked to be relieved of the responsibility to focus on its own workforce development and talent demand efforts. The Chamber will, however, continue to be an active participant in both the Guiding Team and the High School Graduation Network.

**About the Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative**

The Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative (TCCC) is a community-wide movement in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties, South Carolina focused on improving the quality of life of its citizens and its workforce through education. Using data and focused community collaboration across a continuum from “cradle-to-career,” TCCC serves as a catalyst for widespread systemic change, with the ultimate goal of increased student success and economic prosperity for all.

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