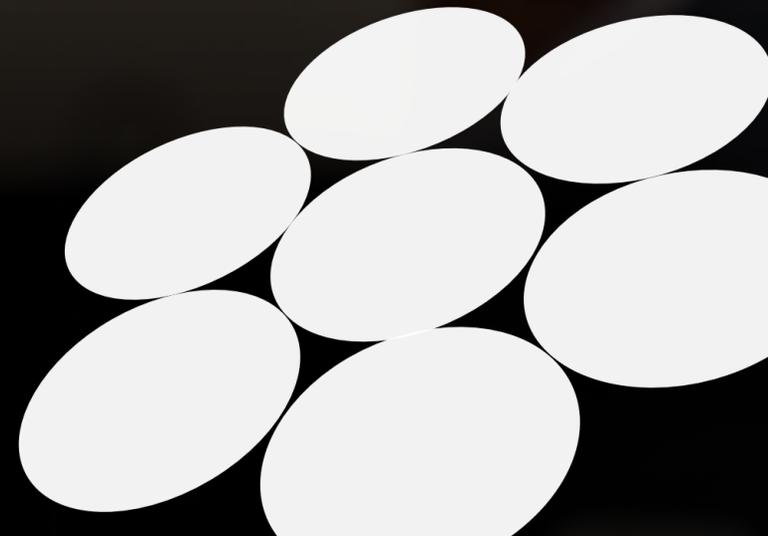




Annual Report — 2025

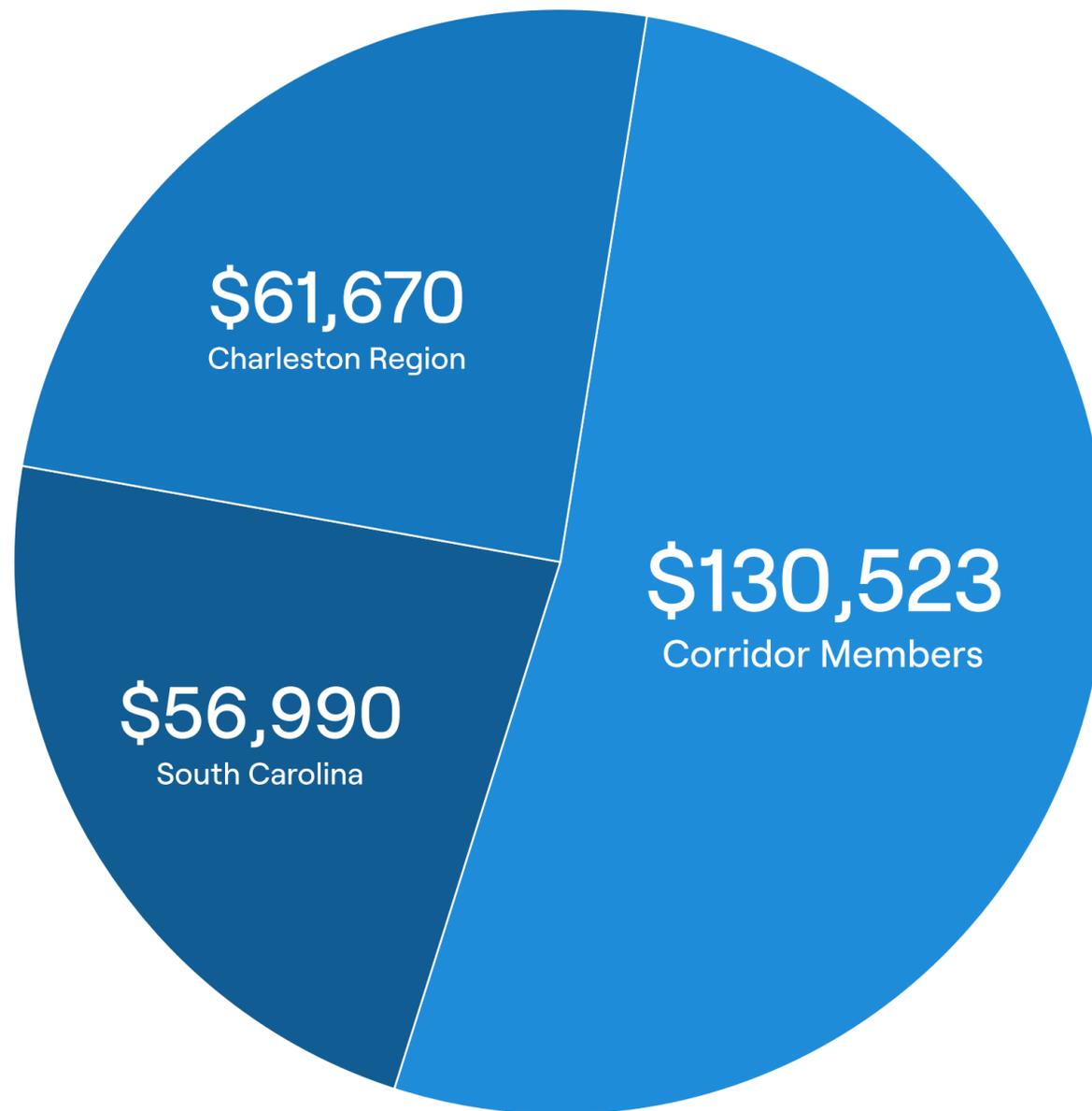


CHARLESTON TECH WAGES REACH A NEW HIGH

Annual Wage Survey

In its Annual Wage & Job Growth Survey, Charleston Digital is pleased to announce the per-capita wage at companies participating in the 2025 survey is **\$130,523**. This figure, as in past years, represents more than double the latest regional and State per-capita wage numbers, with the State of South Carolina's average wage at **\$56,990** and the Charleston Region average wage at **\$61,670**

2025 RESULTS



Source: Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics / Charleston Digital





Camgian



acuCyber



Nash

OUR EVER-GROWING FAMILY

Flagship @ CTC

The Charleston Tech Center and Flagship experienced impressive growth in 2025. Continuing the trend from previous years, we saw a strong influx of new businesses as well as the graduations of outgrowing tech companies at the Flagship. Since its inception in 2009, our tech-focused business incubator Flagship has proudly supported 280 companies and currently happily hosts 53 companies employing 158 individuals.

FLAGSHIP @ THE CHARLESTON TECH CENTER

53

companies in residence

158

employees

63

graduates since 2021

280

companies supported since 2009

SELECT COMPANIES IN RESIDENCE





Developer Prototyping with AI



Summer STEM Camp for Kids



Entrepreneur's Guide to Raising Capital

EDUCATING TECH SINCE 2023

Charleston Learning Center

The Charleston Learning Center is a modern training and learning facility accessible to the Charleston community and beyond. In its second full year of operation, the center's numbers and positive feedback affirm, inform and refine our vision to serve up a growing array of pragmatic business and tech classes. As of January 1, 2026, the Learning Center has hosted **1,371 attendees** of all ages and backgrounds.

LEARNING CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

385

attendees

100+

scholarships

24

classes & meetups

109

underrepresented attendees

PARTNERS





17 YEARS RUNNING

Annual iFiveK Race

The iFiveK weekday evening race is the official business, athletic and social event for Charleston’s tech professionals held at and around the Charleston Tech Center in downtown Charleston. Since its 2007 debut, the iFiveK has become a much anticipated event which, to date, has **raised a grand total of \$1,003,442**. All proceeds from the race go to support scholarships at the new Charleston Learning Center.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$81k

funds raised to support the Charleston Learning Center

35

tech companies participating in the 17th Annual iFiveK

WINNING TIMES

17:25.2

Preston Anderson, fastest male

21:18.7

Maiya Parrous, fastest female



Moovila wins the 2025 Spirit Award!



FALL SHUCKING

Community Oyster Roast

As the weather cools and oyster season arrives, members of the Charleston tech community gather around the tables to enjoy a fun evening featuring local oysters, beer from neighboring microbreweries and live music.

BY THE NUMBERS

25 / 2,500

bushels / oysters

389

beers down the hatch

200

attendees



Doug Walters



Oyster shucking table



Winning smiles of the night

SPONSORING COMPANIES



LaunchPad





3RD ANNUAL

State of the Tech Dinner

The State of the Tech Dinner celebrates Charleston’s tech community by recognizing the companies, investors and invested individuals for their support and participation in Charleston Digital. The 3rd Annual Dinner, sponsored by **Bluestone**, **Google** and **Charleston County Economic Development**, featured esteemed keynote speaker, **Justin Fanelli** – Department of Navy CTO, a \$30,000 gift presentation from **Comcast** and a few supportive words from SC-1 Congressional candidate **Jenny Costa Honeycutt**.



Comcast gift presentation



Keynote speaker Justin Fanelli



Team Qwick

SPONSORING COMPANIES



INSIGHT FROM CHARLESTON CHANGEMAKERS

Tech Life Podcast

The Tech Life Podcast series features monthly episodes with some of Charleston's respected tech innovators and leaders. Each of the **15 new episodes** of 2025 had a unique story and shared lessons learned, mistakes, successes, and even the occasional light-hearted quip. Listen wherever you get your podcasts.



Jessica Brewer, 3Together



AJ Richichi, Sprockets



Chris & Lindsay Lenard, Horse Spot

ALL 2025 INTERVIEWEES

- Jackie McKelvey, Thrive Data
- Amy Little, Third Language LLC
- Jeremy Berman, GoodUnited
- Jonathan Yantis, QuicksortRx
- Todd Lant, Blackbaud
- Drew Wagner, LaunchPad
- Marc Murphy, Ignite Digital
- Andy Seavers, Case Status
- Jessica Brewer, 3Together
- Misael Rodriguez, Sea Island Creative
- Jordan Berry, Interloop
- Matt Rosa, Alita
- Vernon Mathias, HabitNu
- AJ Richichi, Sprockets
- Chris & Lindsay Lenard, Horse Spot



JUST THE FACTS

Charleston Region at a Glance

The economic impact of the tech industry in the Charleston region is substantial. In just over 20 years, the industry has experienced impressive growth of more than 10,000%. The quality of the jobs cannot be overstated, and the gains over the past ten years exceed national averages.

TECH EMPLOYMENT

12.0%

OF REGIONAL ECONOMY

3.0% annual growth over the past 10 years vs. 1.8% nationally

TECH GDP

17.0%

ECONOMIC MAKEUP

8.4% annual growth over the past 10 years vs. 5.7% nationally

COMPANY GROWTH

18

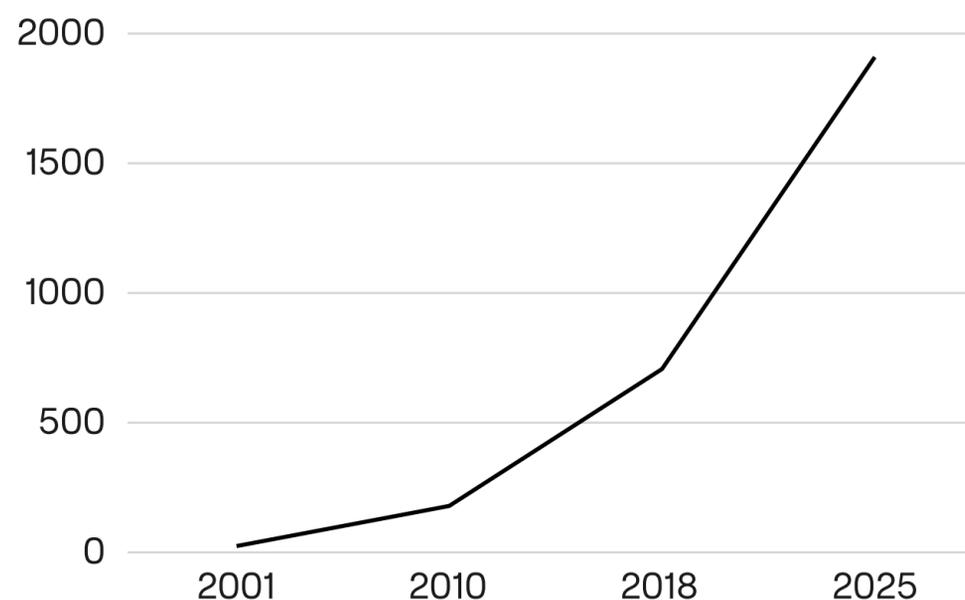
COMPANIES IN 2001

700

COMPANIES IN 2018

1902

COMPANIES IN 2025



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, JobsEQ, CompTIA / CRDA



LOOKING AHEAD...

Charleston Tech Center II

Charleston's tech economy is thriving, and with the Charleston Tech Center (CTC) fully occupied, Charleston Digital is exploring the development of CTC II. This new space would support emerging homegrown companies, those in the robust defense sector, as well as businesses considering expanding to our rapidly growing region. The planned building will feature 8.5 floors over a 12,000 square foot plate.



Letter from the Director

Looking back on this past year, I cannot help but be inspired by the steady growth and resilience of Charleston's tech community. Even with the usual noise of global economic headlines, Charleston tech simply keeps adding talent, attracting investment and expanding its footprint.

- Tech compensation in Charleston reached a **new high of \$130,523** in our **annual wage survey**. This is more than double current regional and state averages and a clear validation of the sector's robustness.
- Our **annual iFiveK** race reached a new high, **raising \$81,000** for tech education and programs. Impressively, the race this year pushed the cumulative funds raised **over \$1M** since it debuted 17 years ago.
- Momentum also continued on the physical front as **Phase II** of the **Charleston Tech Center** advanced with detailed designs, partners, and builders coalescing. Nothing of course is final until the ink is dry, but anticipation is building – and if current momentum holds, you can expect shiny shovels within 2-3 years.
- The **State of the Tech Dinner** in December was special. We were honored to have keynote speaker **Justin Fanelli, Department of Navy CTO**, who shared the federal government's renewed commitment to increased accountability and investment in defense technologies, including right here in Charleston.

These milestones are more than encouraging as they signal to me clearly the scale of what is now really possible. From fewer than two dozen companies at our inception in 2001 to a diversified innovation ecosystem today, Charleston has quietly built the fundamentals that allow for a higher level of growth and development.

We teased the introduction of **Charleston Digital Defense (CDD)** at the State of the Tech dinner. But we expect to formally announce its establishment early in 2026 – with substantial funding, key partnerships and immediate first projects aimed at solidifying Charleston as a hub for dual-use technology, defense and national security innovation. Watch your inbox soon!

I believe we have reached the point where simple, modest goals no longer match our true capacity and opportunity. The next chapter will be bigger and stronger – by design. On behalf of the City of Charleston, our board, and the Charleston Digital community, thank you sincerely for your enduring support.



Continued success,

Ernest Andrade, Executive Director

