Leadership Columbia Visits BRCI

Some 60 members of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Columbia program toured Broad River Correctional Institution on March 8, 2016. The Leadership Columbia class, which includes emerging community leaders with a variety of skills and wide ranging backgrounds, spent much of the day learning about the South Carolina Department of Corrections and its mission.

BRCI Warden Larry Cartledge and Associate Wardens Michael Stephan and Greg Washington gave the class a comprehensive tour of the facilities and answered their many questions about the role SCDC plays in law enforcement and corrections. The class also had the opportunity to hear from some inmates at BRCI who spoke on what had led them to prison life and how their lives had changed for the better as a result of the numerous programs they had been exposed to since being incarcerated at SCDC. The Chamber participants were split into two groups and saw everything from typical dorms to the Division of Industries, the chapel, cafeteria, health facilities, and the Capital Punishment Facility.

Leadership Columbia is a ten month program that aims to identify and motivate emerging community leaders while providing an educational experience with a strong emphasis on social and community awareness. The program challenges participants to apply their talents within their community while providing opportunity to become involved. The class gets hands on experience on such topics as education, politics and government, arts and culture, economic development, finance, health and human services, military affairs, tourism and environment and criminal justice and law enforcement.