



**Greer High School**

3000 East Gap Creek Road  
Greer, SC 29651

Justin Ludley, Principal  
(864) 355 – 5710  
[jludley@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:jludley@greenville.k12.sc.us)

Leigh Ryan, SIC Chair  
307 West Church Street  
Greer, SC 29651  
(404) 290 – 8161  
[cleighryan@gmail.com](mailto:cleighryan@gmail.com)

Greenville County School District

Application for 2023 *Riley Award*

## **Part Two - Case Statement**

### **Issue**

Since 2006 Greer High School has had the distinction of being an International Baccalaureate high school. For many years the school's vision was often focused on ensuring that students graduated from high school prepared to meet expectations of university standards with success. In today's world, not all students are college bound, and Greer High School has placed great emphasis on all students graduating both college and career ready. The SIC committee recognized the need for all students to be equipped for success beyond the completion of high school, including those not exclusively college-focused. Together we searched for a way to communicate local opportunities and to mind the gap for these students as a part of the educational experience at Greer High School. As the Greer community has grown into a heavy manufacturing area for the state, and in conjunction with the pandemic, Principal Justin Ludley and the school's SIC identified a need to encourage and support trade and technical education. The need for a skilled workforce in Greer is now greater than ever.

A core strength of Greer High School is our diversity. Students have varying backgrounds, skill-sets, interests, and personalities. Currently, the makeup of the student population is 44.9% white, 26.5% Hispanic/Latino, 21% black, 5.6 % two or more races, 1% Asian, and 1% American Indian or Alaska Native. 18% of our students receive Special Education services. 5% of our students have a 504 plan. The current poverty index for Greer High School is 73.4%.

For the 2022 Greer High School graduating class, 27% planned to attend a 4-year college, 42% planned to attend an in-state 2-year college or obtain an in-state Associate's degree, 3% planned to obtain a certificate or attend another type of school, 2% planned to enlist in the Armed Services, and 26% planned to work full-time.

### **Action Taken**

During the first SIC meeting of the 2021-2022 school year, our SIC brainstormed ways to inspire and create awareness for the job opportunities that are available in our community in response to the shortage in the local labor force. Through community relationships and engagement, the SIC brought together Greer business leaders and the school's Career Technology Education (CTE) department to create a think tank. The SIC and stakeholders collaborated monthly to plan the inaugural Greer High School Career and Technology Education Summit for students in grades nine through twelve. The theme of the March 2022 Greer High School CTE Summit was teamwork: Collaboration, Cooperation, and Your Career!

This conference style event invited students to learn about careers, opportunities, and successes from local professionals. Students were introduced to career experiences in manufacturing,

agriculture, health sciences, supply chain, graphic design, business, and more. The event was jointly planned by the SIC, Greer High staff, community leaders, and business partners such as Michelin, PRISMA Health, the Greer Chamber of Commerce, and the SC Department of Commerce.

CTE faculty members recruited professionals from their content area to speak with students about their career experiences. Speakers for the day represented a variety of businesses and careers to include real-estate, health care, small business entrepreneurship, global logistics/supply chain management, government, technology products and solutions, and the chamber of commerce.

Students transitioned between multiple sessions where they learned from our community's best and brightest. This event gave the students at Greer High School key information for building a successful life using targeted technical and academic skills and highlighted techniques and strategies that leaders in their fields deem to be employability skills.

### Results

Following the summit, the number of students from Greer High School who applied for CTE programs at the Bonds Career Center increased 130% from 135 applicants in 2021 to 311 applicants in 2022. The 311 applicants from Greer High School submitted 603 total applications with some students applying for multiple programs. 158 Greer High School students received offers to join a program at Bonds Career Center for the 2022-2023 school year and 23 Greer High students were added to the waitlist.

The speakers reflected and shared feedback for our staff. A couple of their comments were: "I saw firsthand that the students were engaged in the discussions and asking insightful questions." "If you all hadn't noted that it was the first one, I would have never known. It was very well organized and I appreciated the warm hospitality of all of the staff. My only suggestion would be to encourage other schools in GCS to do the same. I know it was a wonderful opportunity for the kids, but it was just as rewarding as a presenter. We need more of that!" 11 out of 12 speakers surveyed rated the CTE Summit as a 5 on a scale of 1 - 5. One speaker rated the event as a 4 out of 5. 100% of the speakers indicated that they would like to return and present at the next CTE Summit.

The students were also required to complete an evaluation about their experience. 91% of the students who participated in the summit rated the event at either a 4 or 5 on a scale of 1 to 5. 97% of the participating students indicated that they would sign up again to attend the summit next year and 96% of the students said that they would recommend the summit event to a friend. When asked what they liked most about the conference, a few of the comments included:

"I enjoyed learning from the individuals who spoke and gave us advice/information so we can determine our career choices in the future. I'm very glad I got to attend and experience this event and I can't wait for it to come back next year."

"I liked the diversity of people that came and just the different point of views."

"I liked how much information I received from each speaker. I learned a lot on what to do and what not to do. It opened my mind to what I want or need to do after high school or even during college. It made me have a different mindset."

Finally, one of our students that attended the Greer High CTE Summit last year shared with the current SIC the impact that the summit has had on him.

"I am extremely appreciative of the Greer High School SIC for their development of the GHS CTE Summit. The CTE Summit allowed me to expand my knowledge on fields I am interested in, and fields I am not very familiar with. Not only did it expand my knowledge, it allowed me to reach further into the business world, and attend SC Business Week, a prestigious program in the state of South Carolina, and only 75 students across the state are allowed in. I am now enrolled in 3 CTE classes and plan to continue the business path into college."

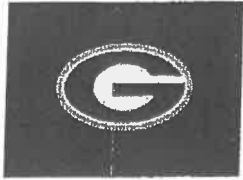
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Greer High School CTE Summit is planned for March 8, 2023.



Catherine Leigh Ryan

Greer High School

SIC Chairperson



# Greer High School

COMMUNITY ♦ TRADITION ♦ DETERMINATION

3000 East Gap Creek Road, Greer, SC 29651

December 6, 2022

Dear SC-SIC Awards Committee,

It gives me great pleasure to write a letter of support for the Greer High School SIC and their application for the Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence. Over the last several years, our SIC team has provided great input for our administration and teaching staff in operations and academics to continue to improve in the services that we provide for all of our students. Our SIC has also been very in-tune with the needs, strengths, and opportunities for our students, school, and community. At Greer High School we want all students to find their passion in a future career field. On March 9, 2022, we hosted our inaugural Greer High School CTE Summit. This conference style event allowed students to learn about careers, opportunities, and successes from local professionals. Students were introduced to career experiences in manufacturing, agriculture, health sciences, supply chain, graphic design, business, and more.

The event was jointly planned by the SIC, Greer High staff, community leaders, and business partners. CTE faculty members recruited professionals from their content area to speak with students about their career experiences, as well as the conference's joint focus area: teamwork. Students transitioned between multiple sessions where they learned from our community's best and brightest; they also received plenty of swag and completed a reflection about their experience. Following the summit, the number of students from Greer High School who applied for CTE programs at the Bonds Career Center increased 130% from 135 applicants in 2021 to 311 applicants in 2022.

The SIC was the driving "think tank" behind the overall structure and intricate details of the plans of the event. Members of the SIC also contributed to this event by participating as speakers and sponsors. The Greer High School SIC is a worthy candidate of the Dick and Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence due to the tremendous impact this event has had on our students at Greer High School.

Sincerely,

Justin Ludley  
Principal of Greer High School

*Academics, Athletics, and the Arts*  
**An International Baccalaureate High School**

[www.greenville.k12.sc.us/greerhs](http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/greerhs)  
864-355-5700 Phone\*Fax 864-355-5725

November 16, 2022

Dear South Carolina School Improvement Council Board of Trustees,

Without hesitation, I am honored to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Greer High School's application for the Dick and Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence. I partnered with Greer High School's CTE program in the planning of the event that brought industry representatives to the classroom to share real world career information and access to students.

I truly believe that this model should be replicated in classrooms across South Carolina. The summit was held on March 9<sup>th</sup>, with a theme of Collaboration, Cooperation, and Your Career. Over many years, I have worked with Mr. Ludley and his CTE team to plan events that are viewed as best practices in South Carolina from the Advanced Manufacturing and Skilled Trades expo, to now chairing their Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management Advisory Board where we have secured industry representation from BMW, Green link, the Greenville Downtown Airport, and a representative from the SC Council on Competitiveness Logistics Sector.

Mr. Ludley is an innovator who works out of the box to make sure that of his students have access to the career workforce pipeline. Planning for these events are intentional, and designed with a desired set of goals, outcomes, and industry touchpoints.

Additionally, as one of the speakers for the CTE summit, I was highly amazed as to the types of questions that the students had, and their wanting to learn more about the various career sectors that are represented in the Greenville Region.

As the Greenville Regional Workforce Advisor in the workforce division for the South Carolina Department of Commerce, Mr. Ludley and his team truly understand the importance of building relationships and touch points with industry that provide his students with the career readiness, and work-based learning opportunities that they need to be better prepared for the workforce. The CTE summit is a prime example of what successful implementation looks like.

Sincerely,



Jay Blankenship

Greenville Regional Workforce Advisor, Workforce Division

South Carolina Department of Commerce

864-607-17484

[jblankenship@sccommerce.com](mailto:jblankenship@sccommerce.com)



November 30, 2022

Dear Award Committee,

On behalf of the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce (GGCC), I am writing in support of the Greer High School Student Improvement Council (SIC) for the award of the Dick and Tunky Riley Award. The GGCC has been a partner with the Greer High School for many years. Currently the Chair of the Board of Directors for the GGCC serves on the Greer High School SIC.

The SIC is very active with the "town and gown" tradition of actively including many business segments of the community within the Greer High School's events and programs. One program that was a brainchild of the Greer High School's SIC was the **Greer High School CTE Summit** that took place in spring of 2022.

The summit was a conference style event that allowed students to learn about careers, opportunities, and successes from local professionals. Students were introduced to career experiences in manufacturing, agriculture, health sciences, supply chain, graphic design, business, and more. The event was jointly planned by Greer High staff, community leaders, and business partners. CTE faculty members recruited professionals from their content area to speak with students about their career experiences, as well as the conference's joint focus area: teamwork.

The GGCC was pleased to be an active participant in this event, and I feel that the Greer High School's SIC created a program that went above and beyond the confines of the school and included the business community to create an incredible program. The GGCC plans to participate again in 2023.

It is with great pleasure that I nominate the Greer High School's SIC with the Dick and Tunky Riley Award. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have or elaborate more on the recommendation.

Sincerely,

David Merhib

President & CEO

Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce



# GREER HIGH SCHOOL

COMMUNITY ♦ TRADITION ♦ DETERMINATION

An International Baccalaureate High School



## Report to the Community



### SIC Goals

**PROMOTE GREER HIGH SCHOOL'S FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS, THE ARTS, AND ATHLETICS**

**INCREASE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AT GREER HIGH SCHOOL AS WELL ALLOW STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND LEARN ABOUT CAREERS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND SUCCESSES FROM LOCAL PROFESSIONALS THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INAUGURAL GREER HIGH SCHOOL CTE SUMMIT**

2021 Graduation Rate was 76.8%

Instructional offerings include a Comprehensive International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, Advanced Placement courses, and a variety of Dual Credit courses through Presbyterian College and Greenville Technical College

Career and Technical Education Courses in Global Logistics, Health Sciences, Sports Medicine, Agriculture, and Advanced Manufacturing that lead to Licensure and Certification in a Career Pathway







## GRADUATION PLUS

### Class of 2021 Cumulative Statistics

- 30 point growth in IB scores over the last two years.
- 15 point growth in AP scores over the last two years.
- Increase in the number of Dual Credit Courses and Hours.
- 474 Industry-Recognized Career Certifications earned.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Greer High Virtual Enterprise Program is 6-time State Champions and competes in National and International Competitions. It allows students to participate in Entrepreneurial Opportunities in Business Education.
- Greer High Art Department students annually enter and win in multiple Art Competitions at Local and Regional Levels (Artisphere, PTSA Reflections, City of Greer, etc)
- State Award Winning Marching Band Program
- Greer High Choral Music students annually participate in All-State and District Choirs
- Nationally Certified Project Lead the Way Program
- 33 Athletic Teams - 18 Varsity and 15 Sub-Varsity
- Awarded the 2020 Strengths in America Award. Greer High's Strengths Program was 1 in only 40 high schools in the nation and the only one in SC to receive this prestigious award
- Advanced technology and 1:1 learning environment which enhances the personalized learning experience
- Established small learning community using an inclusive Freshman Academy model
- Service Learning Program completed over 4,000 hours of service
- South Carolina Teaching Fellows and Award Winners
- Watson Brown Scholarship Award Recipients
- Chick-Fil-A Leader Academy
- National Honor Society, Beta Club, National Art Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, LEO Club, Spanish Club, Academic Team, Computer Science Team, FFA, etc
- Modern Language offerings available in French, German, and Spanish
- Innovative Peer Tutoring Program for General Education Students to support Special Needs Learners

**WE BUILD COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY GRADUATES BY CONNECTING STUDENTS TO MEANINGFUL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT EMPOWER THEM TO BE PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY AND LIFELONG LEARNERS.**

## SELECT SCHOOL

Greer High is an International Baccalaureate World School. The IB Diploma Program is a rigorous pre-university course of studies that meets the needs of highly motivated secondary school students. The IB Diploma program is designed to allow graduates to fulfill requirements of various national education systems. The Diploma model incorporates the best elements of diverse worldwide educational curricula.

Colleges and universities around the world highly regard the IB Diploma. Students are able to earn as many as 60 college credits by successfully completing the program.

## One-Page Narrative - Greer High School's SIC Progress in 2022-2023

The Greenville-Spartanburg area is growing at an exorbitant rate, and the need for a skilled workforce in Greer is greater than ever. During the 2021-2022 school year, Principal Justin Ludley and the school's SIC committee recognized that the Greer community had transitioned into a heavy manufacturing area for the state. In conjunction with the needs the pandemic placed on the local economy and workforce, the Greer High School SIC identified a need to encourage and support trade and technical education. In a continuing effort to prepare students to be both college and career ready, we saw the opportunity to build on the momentum and enthusiasm from our first Career Technology Education Summit and we are currently preparing to bring back this event for a second year. The 2022 Summit hosted by the CTE department, staff, and partners had 190 students in attendance. This year we anticipate that 220 students will attend.

This conference-style event allows students an up-close experience to learn about careers, opportunities, and successes as they engage with local professionals. In continued partnerships with the CTE department, South Carolina Department of Commerce, Greer Made, and Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce, we are encouraged towards our goal of having each student college and or career ready upon graduation from Greer High School. A core strength of Greer High School is our diversity. Students have varying backgrounds, skill sets, interests, and personalities. Following the summit in 2022, the number of students from Greer High School who applied for CTE programs at the Bonds Career Center increased by 130%. The 311 applicants from Greer High School submitted 603 total applications with some students applying for multiple programs. 158 Greer High School students received offers to join a program at Bonds Career Center for the 2022-2023 school year and 23 Greer High students were added to the waitlist.

The theme of this year's Summit is "Professionalism in the Workplace!" As we reviewed the feedback from last year from the evaluations from all stakeholders which include students, staff, business partners, and the SIC, we critiqued our format and made some adjustments. This year we are focused on increasing the planning and collaboration efforts between our business partners and teachers before the summit to strengthen the presentations for our students. Another area of fine-tuning will be to condense our breakout sessions to 25 minutes per presentation in each of the four sessions. In addition, this year we will kick off the summit with a keynote speaker before we break out into the main sessions. Our central goal for the Summit this year is to keep improving from our highly successful event last year and to create an even greater impact in the lives of students. The 2023 Greer High School Career and Technology Education Summit will take place on Wednesday, March 8, 2023.