

PALMETTO GOURMET FOODS CREATES NEW INVESTMENTS AND INCREASES JOBS FOLLOWING SCMEP'S HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

ABOUT PALMETTO GOURMET FOODS. Palmetto Gourmet Foods, located in Saluda, South Carolina, is one of the fastest-growing food companies in the U.S. and is the first American producer of innovative sustainable, plant-based ramen noodles. Their expandable 165,500-square-foot food-grade facility is one of the largest noodle production plants in North America.

THE CHALLENGE. The company needed a functional HR department and HR manager. There were many issues with inconsistent training and language barriers so there needed to be a standardization of on-the-job (OJT) training. For help Palmetto turned to SCMEP, part of the MEP National Network™.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. SCMEP was able to provide on-site and remote HR administration and consultation. Objectives throughout the project included: recruiting and identifying qualified HR manager candidates immediately; identifying an EEOC compliant skills assessment to assist recruiting processes in better identifying individuals capable of available jobs; identifying vendors of automated options for the application and onboarding processes and present to management for implementation; identifying workforce partners, programs, and financial incentives available through SCMEP and the State of South Carolina to recruit and retain the company's future workforce; and setting up PGF jobs on the SC State Jobs Database as another free mechanism to post jobs to a wider audience. SCMEP also assisted in locating potential funding for workforce expansion through ReadySC and new equipment lines through Enterprise Zone and negotiating and implement those programs/incentives. SCMEP staff also provided supervisory training and soft skills training to existing employees and guidance on standardization of OJT training.

"The professional approach provided by SCMEP was timely. We did not have a functional HR Department and they provided the framework and assisted in recruiting for our HR Department."

-John Fox, EVP, Operations

RESULTS



73 jobs created, 25 jobs retained



\$6,200,000 in new investment

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