

MAYOR
JAY DOYLE

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
SCOTT WHITTIER

CITY CLERK
STEPHANIE BUCCIONE



COUNCIL MEMBERS
JESSIE M. WALKER
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

BRUCE CARL
ERIN ETHRIDGE
SHARON MELTON
HOBSON H. MILTON
TAMIKA WILLIAMS-OBENG

April 14, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jay Doyle, Mayor of the City of Georgetown, announced, he is traveling to Helsinki Finland at the invitation of Clemson University's Wood Utilization & Design Institute. He is one of 12 people (see attached) from the Palmetto state included in the delegation making the trip. The Mayor chose to go to introduce the city of Georgetown to manufacturers of wood timber products and learn more about their cutting edge, green technologies.

Most of the trip will be funded by the city of Georgetown and partially by the mayor using personal funds. No funding will be accepted from outside sources. The estimated amount coming from city funds will be approximately \$4000.00 for this one-week city business trip. This trip is the start of the Mayor's plan to bring Georgetown back to its industrial roots. The long-term plan is to bring manufacturing jobs to the city and the surrounding area. By initiating the introduction of Georgetown to foreign investors, the Mayor hopes to attract them to invest in Georgetown by locating here. He plans to promote our area and all we have to offer.

Mayor Doyle is also working to reshape the city budget to invest more in job recruitment. Currently, the proposed budget calls for \$300,000.00 to advertise and promote tourism but does not provide any funds for recruiting living wage jobs.

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ANNEX I

1. Furman Brodie, Charles Ingram Lumber Co. VP

Furman Brodie is **Vice President at Charles Ingram Lumber Company**, a South Carolina–based family-owned lumber producer specializing in high-quality southern yellow pine products. In his role, he helps oversee operations and market development while supporting the company’s long-standing commitment to sustainable forest management and the strength of the regional forest products industry.

2. Trip Chavis, Milliken Advisors Consulting Group, CEO & President

Trip Chavis is the **CEO and President of Milliken Advisors Consulting Group**, where he advises organizations on strategic growth, investment, and economic development initiatives. His work focuses on helping businesses and institutions navigate complex markets, build partnerships, and advance innovation-driven opportunities, including those connected to manufacturing and the forest-based economy.

3. Melissa Chavis, Milliken Advisors Consulting Group, Owner

Melissa Chavis is a communications and community engagement professional with experience supporting organizational outreach, stakeholder coordination, and strategic messaging. Her work focuses on building relationships across industry, community, and institutional partners, helping to translate complex initiatives into clear, accessible narratives. Through her efforts, she contributes to strengthening collaboration, enhancing public engagement, and advancing initiatives that support regional economic development and community impact.

4. Jared Coffin, Hanbury, AIA, LEED AP, WELL AP, Design Principal + Clemson Office Leader

Jared Coffin is an experienced architect with over 35 years of practice, leading student-focused projects that emphasize well-being and purpose-driven design. A key focus of his work is advancing the use of mass timber, and he has maintained a strong relationship with Clemson University’s Wood Utilization + Design Institute (WU+DI) since 2017, supporting innovation in sustainable materials and construction. He founded Hanbury’s Clemson office to strengthen the connection between practice and academia,

creating a pipeline for students to gain real world experience while enabling firm leadership to engage in teaching. He is also deeply committed to mentorship, helping shape the firm's long standing talent development programs. Through his leadership and engagement with Clemson's architecture studios, Jared has expanded Hanbury's impact into surrounding communities, using design to promote revitalization, sustainability, and student success.

5. Hunter Davis, Davis & Floyd Engineering, Project Manager

Hunter Davis is a project manager with Davis & Floyd based in Greenville, where he contributes to advancing the firm's industrial sector work and client relationships. He is part of a multidisciplinary engineering team focused on delivering infrastructure, environmental, and industrial solutions that support regional growth and community development across South Carolina.

6. Jay Doyle, Mayor Georgetown, SC

Jay Doyle is the **Mayor of Georgetown, South Carolina**, a historic coastal city with deep roots in the state's timber, port, and forest products industries. As mayor, he works to advance economic development, strengthen local industry partnerships, and support initiatives that promote sustainable growth and new opportunities for the region's forest-based economy.

7. Puneet Dwivedi, Endowed Prof. of Environmental Sustainability

Dr. Puneet Dwivedi is an Endowed Professor of Environmental Sustainability whose research focuses on forest economics, natural resource policy, and the role of forests in climate mitigation and sustainable development. His work integrates economic analysis, environmental policy, and land-use dynamics to inform strategies that support sustainable forest management and bioeconomy growth.

8. M. Soledad Peresin, Wood Utilization + Design (WU+D) Institute, Director

Dr. M. Soledad Peresin is the Director of the Wood Utilization + Design (WU+D) Institute at Clemson University and a Professor jointly appointed in Forestry, Conservation and Environment and Materials Science and Engineering. Her research focuses on transforming lignocellulosic biomass into high-value materials for applications in packaging, construction, and advanced manufacturing, supporting the growth of the forest bioeconomy.

9. Scott Phillips, South Carolina Forestry Commission, State Forester

Scott Phillips is the **State Forester and Director of the South Carolina Forestry Commission**, the state agency responsible for protecting, managing, and advancing South Carolina's forest resources. He oversees statewide wildfire protection, forest stewardship, and industry support programs while working closely with landowners, industry leaders, and policymakers to ensure the long-term sustainability and economic vitality of the state's \$23-billion forest products sector. Phillips plays a key role in shaping strategies that strengthen forest-based economic development, expand markets for wood products, and support sustainable forest management across the region.

10. Guy Sabin, South Carolina Forestry Commission, Resource Development Section Chief

Guy Sabin is the **Resource Development Section Chief at the South Carolina Forestry Commission**, where he leads programs focused on forest management, landowner assistance, and sustainable forest resource development across the state. His work supports private landowners, forest-based industries, and public partners in implementing responsible forest stewardship practices while strengthening the economic and environmental sustainability of South Carolina's forest sector.

11. Jake Scott, Collum Forest Products, Co-owner

Jake Scott is **Co-Owner of Collum Forest Products**, a South Carolina-based family business specializing in the procurement, harvesting, and marketing of timber and forest products. Through his work, he supports sustainable forest management, responsible timber sourcing, and the continued strength of the region's forest products supply chain.

12. Lavender Tessmer, School of Architecture, Assistant Professor

Dr. Lavender Tessmer is an **Assistant Professor in the School of Architecture at Clemson University** whose research focuses on computational design and scalable production methods integrating textiles, digital fabrication, and responsive material systems. Previously a Research Assistant at the MIT Self-Assembly Lab, her work has explored climate-responsive textiles and adaptable garments. She holds an M.Arch from Washington University in St. Louis and an SMArchS/PhD in Design and Computation from MIT.