



NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Raul Fernandez-Carreras honored as Lexington County's 2011 Economic Development Ambassador

LEXINGTON, S.C. – Lexington County Council, on March 22, 2011, presented Raul Fernandez-Carreras as the 2010 Ambassador for Economic Development for Lexington County. On January 25th, Fernandez-Carreras attended a ceremony at the State House, hosted by the SC Department of Commerce, to celebrate this achievement.

This year marked the SC Department of Commerce's 20th Annual Industry Appreciation celebration. Forty-seven individuals from 46 counties were honored for their exceptional efforts to cultivate economic development activities in South Carolina. This year's speakers for the event were Governor Nikki Haley, House Speaker Bobby Harrell and Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

Fernandez-Carreras was the Site Manager for the Michelin Lexington County facilities, Plant Manager for the passenger tire facility (US5) and has been a member of the Lexington community for 10 years. He has personally led the growth of the Michelin facility through significant expansions during his tenure. His groundwork enabled the Lexington campus to become the largest manufacturing site in the corporation's footprint, which includes both the passenger tire facility and Earthmover plants.

"Lexington County Council is honored to have the privilege of presenting this award, which symbolizes exceptional efforts in the economic development arena, to an individual who has done so much for not only his company, but the community at large," said Jim Kinard, Chairman of Lexington County Council.

"We are pleased to recognize Raul Fernandez-Carreras as this year's Ambassador recipient. He has greatly strengthened the economic activity in our area and has helped to foster the growth that we are currently experiencing," said Lexington County Economic Development Committee Chairman Bill Banning.

The presentation of the Ambassador Award for Lexington County Council coincided with Michelin announcing their negotiations to expand the Lexington facility. This expansion is expected to affect both tire manufacturing facilities.