

# GE invests \$5M in Upstate for engineering program

THE JOURNAL STAFF

GREENVILLE— GE recently announced a five-year, \$5 million investment in the Upstate to launch a worldwide college-readiness program to increase diversity in engineering.

The program called "Next Engineers" will offer three programs for students in eighth grade and up through engineering camps and academies.

"Bringing diverse young voices to engineering is imperative as these students will power and lead the change our world needs," GE Gas Power Engineering vice president John Intile said in a news release. "GE's ongoing and accelerated partnership with Clemson University, including our recent announcement of the GE John Lammas Annual Scholarship supporting underrepresented students, is key to our success. This program will introduce students to the world of engineering

at a young age, conveying the career opportunities that come with degrees in engineering. Most important, it will empower them to reach their own potential and foster the skills needed to address complex, real-world issues."

PEER and Wise at Clemson University works to also increase diversity in science and engineering. Program executive director Serita Acker said the College of Engineering, Computing and Applied Sciences was "honored to collaborate with GE."

"Next Engineers is well positioned to broaden and diversify the pipeline that runs from the K-12 system and higher education to the workforce," Acker said. "GE continues to be one of our most important corporate partners, and I thank them for working to create new pathways to STEM careers."

More information about the program can be found at [nextengineers.org](http://nextengineers.org).