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SC Department of Employment and Workforce

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **For Immediate Release**

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## **Two More S. C. Counties Certified as Work Ready**

COLUMBIA—Gov. Nikki Haley announced today that Charleston and Lancaster counties received certification through the South Carolina Work Ready Communities (SCWRC) initiative. The two counties join the 39 other counties that have met the specified workforce and education goals.

South Carolina leads the nation with the most certified work ready communities, and continues to attract international business development due to its commitment to economic growth and a robust workforce pipeline.

"With Charleston and Lancaster counties receiving certification we are only five counties away from reaching our goal of being the first state in the nation to be fully certified, and that is a reason to celebrate," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "This again proves that the Team South Carolina approach is working toward making sure we have the most competitive business environment in the world for companies looking for a place to call home."

"The Work Ready initiative is providing employers with a skilled workforce, which is driving the state's employment number where, in November, we saw more people working than any time in the our state's history. Companies are deciding that South Carolina is a great place to do business," said Cheryl M. Stanton, Executive Director of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce.

The South Carolina Work Ready Community initiative provides a framework to strengthen economic development using a community-based approach, grounded in certifying counties as work ready.

To become a South Carolina Work Ready Community, a county must reach or exceed goals in earning National Career Readiness Certificates (achieved through WorkKeys® testing), must meet or exceed the three-year graduation rate average or improvement percentage, and must engage business support.

A map of South Carolina's 41 certified counties is available [here](#).

For additional information, visit [www.scworkready.org](http://www.scworkready.org).

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### ***About SCDEW***

*The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce is putting South Carolinians to work. The agency invests in building a pipeline of quality workers, matches workers with jobs, and is a bridge for individuals who find themselves out of work for no fault of their own. This promotes financial stability and economic prosperity for employers, individuals and communities. [SCDEW](#) is dedicated to advancing South Carolina through services that meet the needs of the state's businesses, jobseekers and those looking to advance their careers.*