

From: Soura, Christian
To: Mayer, Doug (DougMayer@gov.sc.gov) <DougMayer@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 6/14/2013 8:46:39 AM
Subject: FW: Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Seniors Excel in Workforce Skills

Christian L. Soura
Deputy Chief of Staff

(803) 543-0792
ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov

From: Kovacs, Elisabeth [mailto:EKovacs@dew.sc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2013 5:34 PM
To: Soura, Christian
Subject: FW: Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Seniors Excel in Workforce Skills

They're milking it!

From: Rosa Boland [mailto:rboland@southerncarolina.org]
Subject: Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Seniors Excel in Workforce Skills



FOR
IMMEDIA
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RELEASE

CONTAC
T: Kay
Maxwell
June 13,
2013

(803)541-0023

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Ehrhard
t High
School
Seniors
Excel in
Workfo
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Skills
Governor
Nikki
Haley's
recently
announce
d "South
Carolina
Work
Ready
Communi
ties"
initiative
to certify
the
quality of
S.C.'s
workforc
e is off to
a great
start in
her
hometow
n of
Bamberg,
South
Carolina,
according
to
officials
at
Southern
Carolina
Regional
Develop
ment
Alliance
(SCA), the
nonprofit
economic
developm
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organizati

on
represent
ing
Bamberg
County
and
leading
the S.C.
Work
Ready
program
in
Bamberg
and
Allendale
Counties.
In March,
the
Senior
Class of
Bamberg-
Ehrhardt
High
School
took the
WorkKey
s® test,
the ACT
standardi
zed test
for
evaluatin
g skills in
the
workplac
e, which
is a key
compone
nt of the
Governor
's multi-
faceted
workforc
e
certificati
on
initiative.
According
to the
results
received
from ACT,
93% of

the
Bamberg-
Ehrhardt
High
School
Class of
2013
rated as
“Work
Ready,”
scoring at
the
Bronze,
Silver and
Gold
proficiency
levels.

“The
Work
Ready
Community
initiative
is an
important
statewide
project
that
assures
businesses
that
South
Carolina
has the
skilled
workforce
they
need to
grow and
thrive in
our state,
” said
Governor
Haley. “
I’m proud
that my
hometown
of
Bamberg
has
jumped
to the

forefront
of this
effort and
that 93%
of the
seniors at
Bamberg-
Ehrhardt
High
School
who took
WorkKeys
tests this
year
earned
either a
Gold,
Silver, or
Bronze
certificate
."

"The high
percenta
ge of
students
scoring at
this level
is an
accomplis
hment to
be
celebrate
d," said
SCA
Chairman
Johnny
Williamso
n of
Denmark.

"We
congratul
ate the
Class of
2013, as
well as
the
teachers,
parents
and
administr
ators in
Bamberg

School
District 1.
"

"From
Bamberg
County
Council, I
would
like to
commend
our
educators
for their
dedication
to our
students,
who will
matriculate
into
the
workforce
and our
institutions
of
higher
learning,"
said
County
Council
Chairwoman
Alzena
Robinson.

"These
graduates
are our
emerging
workforce,
and we
are proud
that they
are ready
for good
jobs and
promising
futures."

"Bamberg
seniors
are
showing
employer

s they are serious about their future and careers by becoming career ready certified," added Joni McDaniel, Coordinator of the Lower Savannah Regional Education Center, whose region includes Bamberg County.

Developed by ACT, the WorkKeys® testing program is a nationally recognized and respected credential that demonstrates to businesses that individual s have the skills needed in the workplace and evaluates

strengths
and
weakness
es in their
skill
levels.

South
Carolina
was one
of four
pilot
states
selected
by ACT to
participat
e in the
ACT
Certified
Work
Ready
Communi
ty
program.
The South
Carolina
initiative
certifies
the
quality of
the
workforc
e based
on four
criteria.
Counties
must
meet
goals for
high
school
graduatio
n, soft
skills
developm
ent,
business
support,
and
National
Career
Readiness
Certificat
e holders.

The WorkKeys® test is the centerpiece of the program. "Bamberg School District One has been using the ACT WorkKeys® program for a number of years," said District Superintendent Dr. Phyllis Schwarting, "and we are extremely pleased with these scores, which are our best ones yet." Dr. Schwarting attributes their success to, "a good, solid foundation from kindergarten forward, emphasizing both academic

s and life skills throughout, and the nurturing that our students receive in a small school setting.” “The WorkKeys test can benchmark those skills which are difficult to measure, such as soft skills, as well as specialized skills,” added Schwarting. “We are proud of our students. Many will seek college degrees or technical training, while some will enter the workforce immediately. These test results reveal that all of them are

ready for
future
opportunities in
the
workforce.”

According
to Kell
Anderson

,
Southern
Carolina
Alliance’s
Bamberg
County
Economic
Development
Director,
most of
the
industries
in the
region
utilize the
WorkKey
s®
program
in some
manner,
and all of
the
schools in
the six-
county
SCA
region
test their
students
in
WorkKey
s®.

“Local
industries
use the
WorkKeys
scores to
assess
the ability
of job
candidates in

locating information and understanding directions, as well as math skills levels," said Anderson. "It's a great tool to identify strengths and weaknesses, then design training to prepare a candidate for a job or promotion. The strong scores achieved by the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School students provide a great marketing tool for industrial recruitment as well.

In a rural community, prospective industries want assurances that we

will be able to provide a skilled workforce. These scores indicate that Bamberg County's emerging workforce is ready for today's advanced manufacturing jobs." Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance will lead the countywide committee to help Bamberg County achieve the "Work Ready Community" status. Leaders from local industries, Denmark Technical College, area high schools, adult education leaders

and
workforc
e
developm
ent
partners
will
comprise
a team
effort to
ensure
that
Bamberg
County's
workforc
e is ready
for
current
and
future
jobs.
The
program
includes
the
current
workforc
e, the
unemplo
yed,
veterans,
and
recent
graduates
. To find
out more
about the
program
or to take
the
the
WorkKey
s® test,
please
contact
Kell
Anderson
at
(803)541-
0023.

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SouthernC
arolina
Regional

Development

Alliance

[www.](http://www.southernCarolina.org)

[SouthernC](http://www.southernCarolina.org)

[arolina.](http://www.southernCarolina.org)

[org](http://www.southernCarolina.org)

[kmaxwell@southerncarolina](mailto:kmaxwell@southerncarolina.org)

[.org](mailto:kmaxwell@southerncarolina.org)

803.541.00

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