

**From:** Priestester, Nicole  
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**Subject:** DEW Listening Rally  
**Location:** Auditorium, C. Lem Harper Building, 631 Hampton St., Columbia, SC  
**When:** 3/7/2014 1:45:00 PM - 2:15:00 PM

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Advance: Colin Duncan  
(803)260-0938

**APPROVED BY:** NRH

**REQUESTED BY:** Director Cheryl Stanton

**EVENT:** DEW Listening Rally

**\*\* DEW's first ever Listening Rally. *This is an agency surprise. Only three people in the agency know that Governor Haley is going to be there.***

**DATE:** Friday, March 7, 2014

**TIME:** 1:45PM - 2:15PM

1:45PM – 1:55PM Governor Haley arrives to meet/greet with DEW Executive Leadership Team  
(Greeted by Director Stanton)

2:00PM Governor Haley is escorted via elevator or stairwell to 3<sup>rd</sup> floor auditorium

2:00PM – 2:05 PM Director Stanton addresses DEW employees and introduces Governor Haley

2:05PM – 2:15 PM Governor Haley addresses DEW staff (No Q &A)

2:15PM Governor Haley exits

**LOCATION:** C. Lem Harper building; 631 Hampton, St. 29201

DEW Executive Leadership meet/greet: Frist Floor Business Services conference room

Listing Rally: Auditorium

**ON-SITE LOCATION CONTACT:** Darrell Scott, 864-247-0548

**SCHEDULING CONTACT:** Katherine Veldran

**PRIMARY STAFF:** Courtney Walls

**ADVANCE STAFF:** Jeff Taillon and Zach Pippin

**PRESS:** No

**PUBLIC:** No

**INVITED BY:** Director Cheryl Stanton

**INTRODUCED BY:** Director Cheryl Stanton

**LENGTH OF SPEAKING:** 10 minutes

**SPEAKING ORDER/LINE-BY-LINE:**

2:00PM – 2:05PM Director Stanton addresses DEW employees and introduces Governor Haley

**ATTENDEES:**

- 400 DEW employees who work in the central office complex will attend the rally and 260 DEW employees will be streamed live to 15 statewide call centers and SC Works centers (52 sites)

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the DEW listening rally is to inform employees about the agency's strategic plan, new mission, goals, expectations, etc. The intent is to encourage and motivate employees and to praise them on the good work they are doing as well as take their questions and suggestions. Gov. Haley will kick off this exciting new event.

**SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:**

**South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce Accomplishments**

1. Unemployment Rate drops to 6.6% in December 2013. This is the first month since January 2001 that South Carolina's unemployment rate has been lower than the national rate.
1. SCDEW made two early trust fund loan repayments in 2013 bringing the total to \$219 million for the year. (\$144M payment made in May rather than November; \$75M extra payment made in October)
  - a. SCDEW early payments made to date towards the loan will save South Carolina businesses over \$4 million.
  - b. Because of our good track record in repaying the loan in 2011, 2012 and 2013, South Carolina received a waiver to avoid the higher federal unemployment tax rates, saving millions for SC businesses. (SCDEW is researching an exact total)
  - c. To date, South Carolina has repaid more than \$520 million of the \$977 million borrowed from the federal government. The outstanding balance is approximately \$455 million and the state is scheduled to repay the entire loan amount by the end of 2015.
1. In 2013, SCDEW implemented the Treasury Offset Program (TOPs) which is a centralized offset program to collect delinquent debts owed to federal and state agencies.
  - a. Through this effort and a State Offset Debt (SOD) collection program, SCDEW collected more than \$22.5 million in over payments from the first and second quarters of 2013.
1. On September 3, 2013, SCDEW issued an emergency declaration to have the improper payment recovery process overhauled, helping to recoup millions of taxpayer dollars that will ultimately lead to paying off the federal loan more quickly and thus reducing the amount of interest South Carolina businesses would need to pay.
1. South Carolina has taken the lead in a three state consortium that includes North Carolina and Georgia to pool costs and resources to develop a modern unemployment insurance benefits system that can be shared by multiple states.
  - a. This project is referred to as the Southeastern Consortium for Unemployment Benefits Implementation (SCUBI)
  - b. Effort will replace South Carolina's 30+ year old benefits solution
  - c. By taking this role, South Carolina ensured the consortium would not lose the \$50 million grant from the federal government.
  - d. The new technology system will allow SCDEW to make changes to its IT system more efficiently and cost effectively when changes are needed to keep up with SC's modernized IT system.

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**Attendees for the Executive Leadership Team meet/greet:**

Executive Director, Cheryl M. Stanton

Darrell T. Scott, Chief of Staff,

Martha Stephenson, Assistant Executive Director of Administration, Support and Operations

Rebecca Battle-Bryant, Assistant Executive Director of Workforce & Economic Development

Bill Beckham, Assistant Executive Director of Organizational Integrity

Erica Von Nessen, Assistant Executive Director of Unemployment Insurance  
Don Grant, Chief Financial Officer  
Neil Adcox, Chief Information Officer  
Jean Cecil Frick, Governmental Affairs and Special Projects Director  
Koa Morgan, Human Resources Director,  
Adrienne Fairwell, Public Information Director