

From: SC Work Ready Communities <scworkready@dew.sc.gov>
To: Soura, ChristianChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov
Date: 6/20/2014 9:01:50 PM
Subject: SCWRC Update

Congratulations to Colleton County for becoming the third SC Certified Work Ready Community and seventh Certified Work Ready County in the country! To view a clip from Gov. Nikki R. Haley's announcement, [click here](#).

The SCWRC initiative continues to evolve to showcase that South Carolina has the skilled workforce to meet the needs of our existing and prospective businesses. Thank you for identifying issues and discrepancies and bringing them to our attention as well as sharing information with all stakeholders.

UPDATES

May ACT National Career Readiness Certificate state and county data has been posted on the Certified Work Ready Communities [website](#) here.

South Carolinians have earned just shy of 219,989 National Career Readiness Certificates, and our state is ranked third in the country behind Michigan and Georgia.

Business support continues to grow and is essential in making the SCWRC initiative successful. There are now 1,419 businesses recognizing or recommending the SCWRC statewide. Additionally, our SC ACT authorized Job Profilers have completed 79 job profiles and have more than 135 positions in the pipeline. Way to go TEAM!

To view all South Carolina county data, including the current Report Card, detailed county list and local businesses supporting the SCWRC, please [click here](#).

South Carolina counties continue to outshine other counties and states in the country. We have an additional 10 counties who have met 100 percent of the ACT national goals including: Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Dorchester, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, Pickens, Saluda and Sumter. Please note that counties who have achieved 100 percent of common criteria goals but who have not accomplished their state goals are not considered a SC Certified Work Ready Community.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Counties continue to struggle with the Soft Skills requirement, which is imperative to showcase to businesses. If you desire technical assistance in identifying ways to meet this goal, please email scworkready@dew.sc.gov.
- It has come to our attention that the NCRC Plus may or may not be reflected accurately by county on the www.workreadycommunities.org website. The state and ACT are working diligently together, and we will keep you updated. As the NCRC Plus can only be administered via WorkKeys Internet version, if individuals are taking the three core assessments via paper/pencil, the same Examinee ID must be used on both to ensure that the assessments match up.
- Speaking of Examinee ID #'s, WorkKeys Internet and paper/pencil assessments currently do not have the same number of spaces for the Examinee ID. Beginning in July, both versions of the assessments will have an 11-digit number. Due to the fact there continues to be issues with matching Examinee IDs, the state will require that all test sites and all partners use the same eight-digit birthday: two-digit month, two-digit day, four-digit year.
- As part of the SCWRC initiative, ACT's Career Ready 101/KeyTrain courseware is available to help prepare individuals to earn the highest certificate level. In reviewing usage reports

- provided by ACT, local sites are either not utilizing this tool at all or to its fullest capacity. There are a total of 207,000 enrolled; however, only 12,615 are actively utilizing the courseware. Please make every effort to ensure that individuals take advantage of this tool prior to taking WorkKeys assessments.
- If you have not received National Career Readiness Certificate laminated cards, or if you have received another test site's certificates, please contact scworkready@dew.sc.gov.
- The state legislature passed, and the Governor signed a bill eliminating the High School Exit Exam and requiring that the WorkKeys assessments be one of the alternative replacements. To view the legislation, please go to http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3919.htm. Given that the SCWRC statewide contract currently includes testing for high school students in order for counties to meet their goals, the SCWRC Leadership Team, which includes the Department of Education, will be working in conjunction with ACT to meet the new requirements. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.
- ACT has a number of upcoming free webinars. Please take advantage of them. Learn more at <http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/169585/80b96138c3/1379121849/cd311007bc/>

Sincerely,

The SCWRC State Leadership Team

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ABOUT SCWRC- The South Carolina Work Ready Communities initiative is a public-private initiative whose mission is to empower counties in developing a workforce that meets the needs and challenges of a global economy. Developed by ACT, a Work Ready Community is a measure of the quality of a county's workforce. South Carolina was one of four pilot states selected by ACT to participate in the ACT Certified Work Ready Community program. For additional information, please visit www.scworkready.org.

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SC DEW | P.O. Box 995 | Columbia | SC | 29202