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Glaccum, David <DavidGlaccum@gov.sc.gov>  
**Subject:** South Carolina Youth Challenge Academy Graduation Exercise for Cohort 1  
**Location:** Aiken Technical College, Building 900, 2276 Jefferson Davis Highway, Graniteville, S.C.  
**When:** 5/27/2016 1:50:00 PM - 3:00:00 PM

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Advance: Brian Welch  
(864)982-3937

**Michael will attend.**

**NOTE:** The stage party will assemble in the Community room #1300 prior to the event. That is located in the Health Science building (1200/1400 building on map). At approximately 1:50 PM, the stage party will walk to the gym for the ceremony.

**EVENT:** South Carolina Youth Challenge Academy Graduation Exercise for Cohort 1

**DATE:** Friday, May 27, 2016

**TIME:** 2:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Aiken Technical College, Gregg-Graniteville Student Activities Center Gymnasium, 2276 Jefferson Davis Highway, Graniteville, S.C.

**LOCATION SET-UP:** The graduation ceremony will be held in the Greg Graniteville Student Activities building (900 building) in the gymnasium. The Governor, Mr. Haley, and those engaged in the ceremony will be seated on stage.

**SEATING:** Gov. Haley will be seated on stage.

The following people will be seated on state:

Governor Haley, Speaker  
Michael Haley, First Gentleman  
General Livingston, Intro Speaker  
General McCarty  
Jennifer Troke  
Dr. Winsor, Welcome  
Dr. Frock  
Ernie Gonzalez, Closing Remarks  
Larry Snipes, Master of Ceremonies

**ON-SITE LOCATION CONTACT:**

Sgt. John McCord  
Aiken County Sherriff's Deput  
Cell: (803) 617-9721  
Office: (803) 508-7359

**SCHEDULING CONTACT:**

Jackie Fogle  
(803) 331-6675  
[FogleJ@tag.scmd.state.sc.us](mailto:FogleJ@tag.scmd.state.sc.us)

Larry Snipes  
Site Director  
SCYCA POST Challenge program  
[SnipesL@tag.scmd.state.sc.us](mailto:SnipesL@tag.scmd.state.sc.us)

**PRIMARY STAFF:**

**ADVANCE STAFF:**

**PURPOSE:** The Governor and First Gentleman will attend the graduation of the inaugural cohort from the Post ChalleNGe Program. Governor Haley will give brief remarks during the graduation ceremony.

**PRESS:** Yes.

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Nikasha Dicks  
Marketing & Public Relations Director  
Aiken Technical College  
(803) 508-7477  
[dicksn@atc.edu](mailto:dicksn@atc.edu)

**PUBLIC:** Yes.

**REQUESTED BY:** Michael Haley

**INTRODUCED BY:** MG Robert E. Livingston, Jr

**LENGTH OF SPEAKING:** 5 mins of remarks

**ATTENDEES:** 200-250 attendees

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

Master of Ceremonies	Mr. Larry Snipes, Director, Post ChalleNGe Program
Processional	Stage Party and Cadets
Presentation of Colors	S.C. Youth Challenge Color Guard
National Anthem	
Invocation	Mr. Connor Burch
Post ChalleNGe Cadet	
Introduction of President	Mr. Snipes
Welcome	Dr. Susan A. Winsor, President, Aiken Technical College
Introduction of Governor	Major General Robert E. Livingston, Jr., South Carolina Adjutant
General	
Remarks	The Honorable Nikki R. Haley, South Carolina Governor
Presentation of Graduates	Dr. Gemma K. Frock, Vice President of Education and Training,
Aiken Technical College	
Conferring of Degrees	Dr. Winsor, Assisted by Dr. Frock and Mr. Snipes
Closing Remarks	Mr. Ernie Gonzales, Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary of
Defense, Manpower and Reserve Affairs	
Benediction	Ms. Mercedes Wright, Post ChalleNGe Cadet
Recessional	Stage Party and Cadets

**BACKGROUND ON POST CHALLENGE:**

The Post ChalleNGe Program is a collaborative effort between the South Carolina Army National Guard, Aiken Technical College, Clemson University's Youth Learning Institute Camp Long facility, Lower Savannah Council of Governments' Workforce Opportunity Investment Act, and Aiken County Public School District.

The program was created due to the award of a nearly \$4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor

to create a 20-week extension to the South Carolina Army National Guard's Youth Challenge Academy based at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, S.C.

Cadets selected for the Post Challenge program have an opportunity to earn applied science certificates from Aiken Technical College in high-demand fields—welding, basic tower and wireless installation, production technology, computer technology, and patient care assisting—while being housed at Camp Long.

The inaugural cohort of the program began classes in January 2016 and today we celebrate their success.

#### **BACKGROUND ON COHORT 1:**

- Cohort 1 is the first of 6 cohorts funded by a DOL grant to create demonstration programs to test the effectiveness of the Youth Challenge model in an occupational training program.
- Cohort 1 started on January 4, 2016 when 48 graduates of the SC Youth Challenge Academy reported to Camp Long in Aiken, SC.
- This first class was made up of 13 females and 35 males.
- On January 11th, 45 cadets actually started classes at Aiken Technical College in Basic Production Operations, Welding, Computer Network Installation, Patient Care Assistant training, and Tower Technician and Wireless Installation.
- As this cohort prepares to graduate, 24 cadets (8 females and 16 males) have completed training and will graduate on May 27th.
- Of interesting note is that among the four Tower Technicians is one female, Sky Beavins from Anderson; and among the five welders graduating in Cohort 1 are two females, Tatiyana Benjamin from Columbia and Deana Robinson from Edgefield.
- Cohort 1 cadets represent 13 counties in South Carolina: Aiken, Anderson, Barnwell, Charleston, Dorchester, Edgefield, Greenwood, Jasper Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Orangeburg, and Richland.
- We expect that by graduation 20 of the 24 graduates will have earned a GED and that all of them will have achieved a Silver-level WorkKeys Certification.
- Occupation plans range from entering the military to joining the family business to continuing college in pursuit of a bachelor's degree while they work in the field they have been trained in.
- These cadets have overcome obstacles and challenges that have held back a large number of their peers to accomplish things they didn't think would be possible just one year ago; and they are now poised to move forward and achieve even more in their lives.

#### **SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:**