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Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>  
**Subject:** SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department Celebration of Success  
**Location:** 1410 Boston Ave, West Columbia, S.C  
**When:** 8/15/2014 12:00:00 PM - 1:00:00 PM

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Advance: Sidney Rainwater  
(843)616-4042

**Note:** Even though this event is taking place in Lexington County, it is a celebration of Richland County Voc. Rehab success.

**APPROVED BY:** NRH on 7/31

**EVENT:** SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department Celebration of Success

**DATE:** Friday, August 15, 2014

**TIME:** 12:00 PM

**LOCATION:** 1410 Boston Ave, West Columbia, S.C.

**LOCATION SET-UP:** Large room with tables and chairs, classroom style with everyone facing the front. There will be a podium with microphone. Reserved seating for NH and KV in the front row of the audience.

**ON-SITE LOCATION CONTACT:**

Joanie Hess  
Commissioner's Assistant  
(803) 896-6504

**SCHEDULING CONTACT:**

Darline Graham  
Public Information Director II  
South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department  
(803)896-6668|Office  
(803)767-2051|Cell  
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**PRIMARY STAFF:** Katherine Veldran

**ADVANCE STAFF:** Zach Pippin

**PURPOSE:** Governor Haley will participate in the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Celebration of Success event.

**PRESS:** Yes.

**PUBLIC:** Yes.

**INVITED BY:** Commissioner Hollis

**INTRODUCED BY:** Commissioner Hollis

**LENGTH OF SPEAKING:** 8 minutes. No Q&A

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

12:00-12:30 PM	Tour of Campus (Meet at Lexington Area Office)	Commissioner Hollis, Darline Graham, Mark Wade, Anne Iriel
	Job Readiness Training Program (12:00-12:12 PM)	
	Evaluation Center (12:12-12:17 PM)	
	Muscular Development Center (12:17-12:20 PM)	
	Information Technology Training Center (12:20-12:30 PM)	
12:30-12:35 PM	Welcome	Commission Hollis
12:35-12:40 PM	Recognition of Client Achievement	Stacy Lever
12:40-12:45 PM	Recognition of Employer Partners	Stacy Lever
12:45-12:50 PM	Video Presentation	Commissioner Hollis
12:50-12:58 PM	Comments	Gov. Haley
12:58-1:00 PM	Summary and Closing Remarks	Commissioner Hollis and Stacy Lever

**ATTENDEES:** 60-70 employees of this campus (Richland Area Office). Clients they serve as well.

**BACKGROUND:** Gov. Haley will address the Richland Area Vocational Rehabilitation's Celebration of Success. The event will take place in Lexington County, but majority of the attendees are employees of the Richland County office. The event is being held in Lexington because they wanted the governor to see their main campus.

**Note:** 2 individuals are being recognized at this event, both of whom are two Voc. Rehab clients:

1. Justin Gilreath is employed by BlueCross BlueShield as a mailing machine operator
1. Richie Garner is a customer service specialist at SC DMV

**Note:** 3 business partners are being recognized at the event:

1. Pontiac Foods – disabled people package food products (hired 3 full time Voc. Rehab clients in the last year)
1. Lizard's Thicket -- have hired multiple Voc. Rehab clients at their various restaurants over the years.
1. BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina – have hired multiple Voc. Rehab clients and served as a disability awareness advocate for many years.

**SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:**

**Lexington Area Voc. Rehab/Celebration of Success**

- Thank you, Commissioner Hollis, for your leadership and your introduction.
- It's an honor to be here today at the Vocational Rehabilitation office.
- It was exciting to tour the campus and see all the good work being done.
- There is a lot of positive momentum in South Carolina right now. Our unemployment rate has fallen to a 13 year low of 5.3% -- well below the national average.
- Here in Lexington County, the unemployment rate has fallen by 2.9% -- from 7.7% to 4.8% -- between 2011 and today.

- A growing economy needs to work for all South Carolinians, including those with disabilities.
- Vocational Rehab's clients are motivated to work, but need the proper training to secure and maintain employment.
- Upon establishing eligibility for the program, Vocational Rehab. tailors a plan for each individual according to their skills and interests.
- That's why Vocational Rehab's work is so vital – they ensure our most vulnerable citizens have the skills they need to succeed.
- **And succeed they have! More than 500 disabled Voc. Rehab clients in the Columbia area have found employment during the last Fiscal Year!**
- In particular, I'd like to recognize **Justin Gilreath** and **Richie Garner** for their employment success! Well done!
- It would be impossible to talk about Vocational Rehab's success without recognizing that it is truly a public-private partnership with our business community.
- More than 400 businesses across the Palmetto State partner with Vocational Rehab to train and hire clients.
- Today, I'd like to recognize three businesses in particular – Lizard's Thicket, Pontiac Food, and BlueCross BlueShield. We couldn't have this type of success without your help!
- Thanks again for having me here for this joyous occasion! And congratulations Justin and Richie! Keep up the good work!

### **Miscellaneous Haley Administration Highlights**

- On January 27 of this year, I signed the Government Restructuring Act of 2014 (S.22). It is the most comprehensive government restructuring in over 20 years - streamlining government processes by abolishing the outdated, five-member Budget & Control Board and creating the Department of Administration, which is responsible for executive and administrative functions.
- On February 11 of this year, I signed S.308, The Concealed Carry Reform Bill. This is just another example of how my administration is dedicated to upholding citizens' 2nd amendment rights here in South Carolina. The bill allows for responsible South Carolinians to carry their firearms into restaurants that serve alcohol, but doesn't allow them to consume alcohol. The bill also allows owners of these establishments to ban individuals from carrying firearms.
- South Carolina's Department of Social Services implemented a welfare-to-work program that has found jobs for over 20,000 welfare recipients (20,217) with 97.1 percent not returning to welfare at least three months following exit and more than 80 percent not returning for at least two years.
- In 2012, we spearheaded a tax reform effort for individuals and businesses and the General Assembly passed a small business income tax reform package that will decrease income taxes for three consecutive years. When the package is in full effect in tax year 2014, the cumulative tax relief to small businesses will be \$63 million (and growing as small business income grows).
- In June 2011, I signed a tort reform law, allowing South Carolina to recruit and expand businesses by protecting them from frivolous lawsuits.
- We have focused on job training and putting workforce ready communities in every county (with Clarendon County becoming SC's 1<sup>st</sup>, McCormick County becoming the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Colleton County the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and recently Saluda County was named the 4<sup>th</sup> in the state).

- We have one of the lowest unionization rates in the country. (3.7%, tied for the 3rd lowest state in the country)
- We made transparency in government a major priority of my administration, including fighting for and signing into law the state's first roll call voting bill.
- We established the South Carolina Commission on Ethics Reform by Executive Order in 2012 to recommend changes that would expand, strengthen, and clarify the state's Ethics Act, which has not been updated in over twenty years. A bill that includes many of the recommendations regarding income disclosures, oversight, and conflicts of recently stalled in the South Carolina Senate, but remains a top legislative priority of my administration.
- By Executive Order, I established a Regulatory Review Task Force in February of 2013, which studied thousands of regulations promulgated by 22 state agencies to determine how the regulatory environment in SC can be streamlined to help small businesses succeed. The goal is to reduce government involvement in business and professional activities that stifle entrepreneurship, small business creation, and economic growth.
- Transportation spending authority has been a priority throughout my administration, which is why I signed into law a \$1 billion infrastructure bill without raising taxes in June of 2013 – the largest investment in roads and bridges in 25 years.
- In 2012, I signed a Charter School Bill that enhances the state's existing charter system by allowing public or independent institutions of higher learning to sponsor a charter school, permitting applicants to seek to form a single gender charter school, and enabling charter school students to participate in extracurricular activities.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Lexington County:** 3,326 jobs announced; \$850 million capital investment announced

Announced Date	Company Name	Objective	Product or Service	Announced Investment	Announced Jobs
2014-04-10	Palmetto State Armory	Expansion	Firearms & accessories	\$4,200,000	300
2014-04-09	Signode	Expansion	Plastic and metal packaging solutions	\$15,000,000	130
2013-01-04	Time Warner Cable	Expansion	Video, Data, and Phone	\$24,000,000	644
2012-05-23	Avtec Inc.	Expansion	VOIP and TDM Console Systems	\$6,100,000	25
2012-04-10	Michelin North America, Inc. US#7	Expansion	Earth mover tires	\$250,000,000	100
2011-11-16	TD Bank	Expansion	Banking Institution		200
2011-10-28	Nephron Pharmaceuticals	New	Pharmaceuticals	\$313,000,000	707
2011-05-27	Amazon.com, Inc.	Expansion	Distribution Center	\$25,000,000	750
2011-05-09	Michelin North America, Inc. US#5	Expansion	Passenger tires	\$130,000,000	220
2011-05-09	Michelin North America, Inc. US#7	Expansion	Earthmover Tires	\$70,000,000	50

2011-04-27	Interstate Resources, Inc.	New	Corrugated Boxes	\$13,000,000	60
2011-01-13	DHL Global Forwarding USA	Expansion	Distribution		140

Between January 2011 and June 2014, the unemployment rate in Lexington County has decreased by 2.9 percentage points from 7.7 percent to 4.8 percent. There are now 6,909 more people employed in the county and 3,775 fewer people unemployed.

## LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

Adoption  
of the  
Conference  
Report  
1/21/14  
S.22

3rd  
Reading  
2/27/2014  
H.3945

3rd  
Reading  
3/13/13 -  
Failed  
S.53

Reference  
notes  
below.  
S. 266

H.3541

	SENATE - Lexington County	DOA	Ethics	Sup. of Edu	ABF	Ad. General
R	John Courson	Y	Y	Y		
R	Ronnie Cromer	Y	Y	Y		
R	Katrina Shealy	Y	Y	Y		
D	Nikki Setzler	Y	Y	N		
R	Shane Massey	Y	Y	Y		

Adoption  
of the  
Conference  
Report  
1/21/14  
S.22

Passage  
of the  
bill  
4/30/13  
H.  
3945

Adopt  
Resolution  
4/9/13  
H. 3518

Adopt  
Resolution  
3/20/13  
H.3541

	HOUSE - Lexington County	DOA	Ethics	Sup. of Edu	ABF	Ad. General
R	Todd Atwater	Y	Y		Y	Y
R	Nathen Ballentine	Y	Y		Y	EA
R	Kenny Bingham	Y	Y		Y	Y
R	Chip Huggins	Y	Y		Y	Y
D	Russell Ott	Y	N/A		N/A	N/A
R	Rick Quinn	Y	Y		Y	Y
R	Kit Spires	Y	Y		Y	Y
R	Mac Toole	Y	Y		Y	NV

### Notes:

**ABF:** S.266 - On the Senate calendar. Gregory - has fought multiple times. Leatherman's continues to fight against. Leatherman's name is on the bill.

**Ethics:** Sen: Bright and Bryant are the 2 Senators that voted against Ethics - 3rd Reading.

House: Bedingfield, Chumley, Delleney, Felder, Moss, Norman, Pitts - voted against the passage of Ethics because it was not what passed out of Judiciary.

Bannister amended on 3rd with a strike and insert of new language which did not include independent investigations.

**Sup. of Edu:** Leatherman and O'Dell voted against. Matthews voted present. Sheheen, Lourie and McElveen voted for it.