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Subject: ****MEDIA ADVISORY**** State Chamber, SCDEW, SWDB To Bring Together South Carolina Leaders At Workforce Development Symposium



SOUTH CAROLINA CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 16, 2016

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

State Chamber, SCDEW, SWDB To Bring Together South Carolina Leaders At Workforce Development Symposium

COLUMBIA, S.C. – On Wednesday, February 17 and Thursday, February 18 the South Carolina Chamber, SCDEW, and SWDB will host a Workforce Development Symposium in partnership with presenting sponsor Bank of America at the Columbia Marriott Downtown. The Symposium will bring business, legislators, educators, and state officials together to have meaningful discussion on how we close South Carolina's skills gap and build a workforce of the future. The event will close with the presentation of the South Carolina Chamber's 2016 Workforce Innovator Awards which will be presented to the businesses that have made proactive, private investments to build South Carolina's workforce.

Details:

WHEN Wednesday-Thursday, February 17-18, 2016

WHERE Columbia Marriott
1200 Hampton St.
Columbia SC

NOTES Press RSVP to gena.mcgroarty@scchamber.net.

Schedule of Events:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

12:50pm **Keynote Speaker:** Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce, South Carolina Department of Commerce

1:45pm **Preparing Leaders for the Workforce of the Future:** Anne Loehr, Founder, Anne Loehr & Associates

2:45pm **South Carolina's Talent Pipeline:** Cheryl Stanton, Executive Director, SCDEW

3:45pm **Future Workforce Needs:** Dr. Jimmie Williamson, President, South Carolina Technical College System

4:30pm **Legislative Panel, Closing the Skills Gap**

Moderator: Jim Reynolds, CEO, Total Comfort Solutions

Panelists: Senator Robert Hayes, Senator Darrell Jackson, Representative Rita Allison, and Representative Jerry Govan

***Throughout the day: Exhibits**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

9am **Opening Comments:** Cheryl Stanton, Executive Director, SCDEW

9:15am **Discussion: The Longevity Revolution and Its Impact on the Workforce**

Cynthia Hutchins, Director of Financial Gerontology, Bank of America

Kai R. Walker, Director of Workplace Financial Solutions, Bank of America Merrill Lynch

10:00am **Panel and Q&A: Finding Workers:** The top issue for businesses in choosing where to locate or expand is a sustainable, highly educated workforce of technicians, managers, engineers and entrepreneurs. South Carolina needs skilled workers---especially middle-skilled workers. We have the jobs---we just to find qualified people to fill them. This panel of business professionals representing Manufacturing, Construction Small Business, Healthcare, and IT will examine concerns and issues with finding workers in South Carolina.

Participants

Bill Caldwell, President, Waldrop Mechanical Services

Lonnie Emard, President, IT-ology

Tim Hayden, President, Sargent Metal

Jimmy Walker, Senior Vice President, Regulatory and Workforce, South Carolina Hospital Association

Moderator

Robbie Barnett, Vice President Workforce, Manufacturing & Support Services, State Chamber

11:45am **Presentation of 2016 Workforce Innovator Awards:** Kim Wilkerson, South Carolina State President, Bank of America

***Throughout the day: Exhibits**

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