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Subject:

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Nikki Haley, House Ways and Means Chairman Brian White, State Superintendent Molly Spearman and business leaders from around the state today announced a collaborative and comprehensive effort to strengthen South Carolina's workforce.

"It's a great day in South Carolina and another day that we are moving forward on trying to make sure that we aren't just a state that is great at attracting businesses, but also that we're a state that has a solid workforce and one that puts people back to work," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "Our goal in South Carolina is to lift everybody up in every corner of the state, and to do it in a way that they feel like they are moving forward and that they are moving their families forward, and this is a start in a new direction."

Since January 2011, Governor Haley has announced \$18.2 billion in new capital investment and over 73,000 jobs coming to South Carolina. The South Carolina Workforce Development Act will help to ensure that South Carolinians will be prepared to fill the positions created by the state's growing economy by prioritizing job training and career development in order to meet the needs of the state's businesses.

Video of the full press conference can be found here: <https://goo.gl/V5Ely4>

"By prioritizing a statewide coordinated workforce development effort now, we are taking a proactive approach to avoid a future skills gap crisis while also providing our citizens greater education and pay opportunities for the jobs of the future," said Chairman Brian White.

[Speaker Quote]

"I am proud to stand with Governor Haley, the General Assembly, and our business leaders as we strengthen the partnership between public education, our technical college system, and four-year universities, to ensure that we have college and career-ready citizens ready to lead our state," said Superintendent Molly Spearman.