New Updates from SCWRC

As you are aware, the South Carolina Work Ready Communities initiative is intended to be a holistic Work Readiness Communities System by utilizing ACT's WorkKeys Assessment, Career Ready 101 preparatory software and job analysis tools. THANK YOU for your patience as we have been transitioning from a multitude of ACT contracts with various partners to the ACT/State of South Carolina contract. Going to a statewide contract encompassing all of ACT's products has been a learning experience for both ACT and the State of South Carolina. The transition to have eligible test sites and those public entities with access to Career Ready 101 up and running has been a slower process than anyone expected. We apologize for the inconvenience and the length of time it has taken to enable counties the ability to take advantage of the products and services offered by the multi-agency public and private partners, in order to meet both the ACT National Work Ready Communities initiative as well as the additional SC Work Ready Communities criteria.

Additionally, ACT is in still in the process of enrolling eligible sites that have signed up to participate through the monthly enrollment periods and to complete the necessary paperwork in order to access products under the SC contract. ACT is working diligently with SC sites to provide these products and services as quickly as possible.

Since the time South Carolina signed the contract with ACT at the end of June to date, the data on ACT's Work Ready Communities website, http://workreadycommunities.org/SC has not reflected the updated number of certificates earned per county; however, the data has been captured. This has been due to moving the data from one RegiStar to another account and to capture information pertaining to the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) Plus dating back to January 2013. We are pleased to inform you that the updated data has been posted on ACT's website as of October 22, 2013.

According to newest data released by ACT yesterday, Allendale, Colleton, Richland, and Bamberg counties have met over 80% of the National Certified Work Ready goals.

Clarendon County is the first **South Carolina Work Ready Community** with Laurens and McCormick counties having met the ACT National Work Ready Communities goals and striving to meet additional South Carolina criteria to include the required National Career Readiness Certificate Plus which measures work discipline, teamwork, managerial potential and customer service orientation, and the three-year county graduation rate or improvement.

To view the most recent data through September, please visit ACT's Certified Work Ready Communities website, http://workreadycommunities.org/SC. We have downloaded the data to show all counties, so you do not have to go into each individual county to determine how many WorkKeys Certificates have been earned within each of the 3 groups:

   * Current (public and private sector workers)
   * Transitioning (unemployed and adult education participants)
   * Emerging (high school juniors and seniors only and college students)

CLICK HERE to view the data through September 2013.

Currently, SC has **818** businesses supporting this initiative statewide.

Please keep in mind that this data does not include the Graduation Rate and Soft Skills requirements a county must also meet to become a SC Work Ready Community.

Other Important Updates
Enrollment, Accounts, Testing, Proctoring, CR101, and NCRC Printing

The fifth open monthly enrollment period for eligible entities to access no-cost services **for High Schools, Career Centers and public workforce entities (including libraries)**, will be **November 4-8, 2013**. Please keep in mind that the monthly enrollment periods will only be offered on a quarterly basis beginning in 2014 so

please encourage all eligible entities within your community to sign up before the end of the year.

For those eligible test sites that plan on utilizing WorkKeys internet testing (WKIV) but having a partner agency conducting the testing, please ensure that you apply for your own WKIV realm so that data can be tracked by individual groups being tested. For example, if an SC Works Center plans to do testing at a High School, the High School will need to have their own realm and not be tested under an SC Works realm. This will ensure accurate reporting to be provided to the state by ACT on a monthly basis.

As mentioned in previous updates, the intent of this initiative is to provide citizens in SC the opportunity to prepare for and have access to the WorkKeys assessment in order to highlight their Work Ready skills. Costs associated with administering and proctoring of the WorkKeys Assessments will be the responsibility of the testing site and should not be charged to individuals or other partner entities.

ACT WorkKeys will host Pencil/Paper test administrator and proctoring informational webinars for South Carolina. A number of sites have requested this training, so take advantage of this opportunity.

> Tuesday, November 5, 10 am -11 am Eastern. To register, click on the following link.
> https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/536413642

> Thursday, November 7, 2 pm -3 pm Eastern. To register, click on the following link.
> https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/789935378

All individuals accessing the no-cost WorkKeys assessment under the state contract will be required to sign an Individual Consent Form. This form has been updated. Please click here to access the form. Additionally, this form will be able to be submitted electronically through the scworkready.org website in the very near future.

Each individual site eligible to access CR101 (KeyTrain preparatory courseware) will need to apply during the open enrollment period (for example, individual library or entities with multiple site locations). Each site will only be provided one CR101. This will ensure accurate reporting to be provided to the state by ACT on a monthly basis.

ACT has provided SC with a CR101 demo account that individuals and businesses can use to learn and understand about the WorkKeys assessments. Please do not enroll individuals into the demo account. Please click here to access the demo account information and quick start guide.

SC will begin to provide NCRC laminated cards instead of NCRC Certificates. The Department of Corrections will begin printing all certificates earned since the July 1, 2013 and all NCRC Plus Certificates from January 1, 2013.

Website and SCWRC Resource Material
You will begin to see changes to the scworkready.org website in the upcoming months to include a wealth of additional information. Please bookmark the page and check often for updates and changes.

Resource material are currently being developed for local communities to share with their students, parents, teachers, administrators, individuals and businesses that outline the SC Work Ready Communities initiative.

Miscellaneous Information

SCWRC's staff is available to help provide technical assistance to local Leadership Teams. Please email scworkready@dew.sc.gov if you are interested in having someone meet with your team.

To view SC's current Report Card, click here.

As this information contains numerous updates, please print this document so that you will have the information readily available at your fingertips and to share with individuals in your community.