

From: Page, Hank <hpage@aging.sc.gov>  
To: Danny VaratDannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov  
Date: 9/19/2017 4:55:04 PM  
Subject: National Employ Older Workers Week

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Danny,

“National Employ Older Workers Week” is recognized September 24 – September 30. Pam Grant (here in the LGOA) has asked me to submit the following text to the Governor’s Office for a proclamation to be created. Just wanted to run it by you first... if you have any concerns, feel free to give me a shout.

Background:

The United States is undergoing a demographic shift that is changing older Americans' relation to the workplace. The average and median age of the U.S. population is rising, and the composition of the workforce with it. By 2020, it is estimated that workers 55 and over will make up 25% of the U.S. civilian labor force, up from 13% in 2000. In addition, individual workers are tending to remain in the workforce longer and retire later. The number of workers over the traditional retirement age of 65 is seeing a marked increase, and it is projected that they will make up more than 7% of the American labor force by 2020. Employers rate older workers high on characteristics such as judgment, commitment to quality, attendance, and punctuality.

National Employ Older Workers Week, held annually the last full week of September, recognizes the vital role of older workers in the workforce. National Employ Older Workers Week aims to increase awareness of this labor segment and develop innovative strategies to tap it. It also showcases the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), which provides on-the-job skills training to individuals 55 or older with limited financial resources. Since its inception, SCSEP has helped over one million older Americans enter the workforce.

Source: [https://www.doleta.gov/seniors/html\\_docs/natemploldwkr.cfm](https://www.doleta.gov/seniors/html_docs/natemploldwkr.cfm)

Additional Information:

- The U.S. Department of Labor celebrates National Employ Older Workers Week the last full week of September.
- The Department of Labor recognizes the vital role of older workers in the workforce.
- The Department of Labor showcases the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), which provides training and employment opportunities for seniors.
- South Carolina provides training opportunities for over 600 seniors annually through SCSEP.
- As our population ages, older employees will fill an increasingly important position in our economy and our leadership in the world marketplace.
- By the end of 2019, 40% of Americans 55 and older will be employed and will make up more than 25% of the U.S. labor force.
- An increasing number of older workers are remaining on the job beyond the traditional age of retirement.
- Workers 55 and older report higher satisfaction with their jobs.
- Retaining older workers in the workforce boosts our national economy.
- Older workers pay taxes and cover more of their expenses during their later years.
- The Department of Labor urges employers to recognize the value of older workers and create age-friendly workplaces.
- The Department of Labor encourages employers to capture *experience*.
- Goodwill Industries is the grantee for state and national training programs in South Carolina for SCSEP.

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