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SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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Three Additional S. C. Counties Certified as Work Ready

COLUMBIA—Governor Nikki Haley announced today that Calhoun, Chester and Orangeburg counties received certification through the South Carolina Work Ready Communities (SCWRC) initiative. The three counties join the 36 other counties that have met the specified workforce and education goals.

South Carolina leads the nation with the most certified work ready communities, and continues to attract international business development due to its commitment to economic growth and a robust workforce pipeline.

"We have a real reason to celebrate with Calhoun, Chester and Orangeburg counties becoming certified as Work Ready Communities," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "This again proves that the Team South Carolina approach is working towards making sure we have the most attractive business environment in the world for companies looking for a place to call home."

"It is exciting to think that there are now 39 South Carolina counties certified as work ready and what it means to our citizens, local communities and our state," said Cheryl M. Stanton, Executive Director of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce. "The Work Ready initiative is providing employers with a skilled workforce, which is driving the state's employment number where, in August, we saw more people working than any time in the our state's history. Companies are deciding that South Carolina is a great place to do business."

The South Carolina Work Ready Community initiative provides a framework to strengthen economic development using a community-based approach, grounded in certifying counties as work ready.

To become a South Carolina Work Ready Community, a county must reach or exceed goals in earning National Career Readiness Certificates (achieved through WorkKeys® testing), must meet or exceed the three-year graduation rate average or improvement percentage, and must engage business support.

A map of South Carolina's 39 certified counties is available [here](#).

For additional information, visit www.scworkready.org.

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The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce is putting South Carolinians to work. The agency invests in building a pipeline of quality workers, matches workers with jobs, and is a bridge for individuals who find themselves out of work for no fault of their own. This promotes financial stability and economic prosperity for employers, individuals and communities. [SCDEW](#) is dedicated to advancing South Carolina through services that meet the needs of the state's businesses, jobseekers and those looking to advance their careers.