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CC: Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 3/3/2014 9:00:08 AM
Subject: Points for Wednesday's McCormick Event

I closed out the open items from last night and had DEW confirm the jobs numbers. Thanks.

CLS

EVENT: Gov. Haley will recognize McCormick County as a Certified Work Ready Community (SC's 2nd).

DATE: Wednesday, March 5, 2014

TIME: 3:45 PM

LOCATION: In the Governor's Office

LOCATION SET-UP: Attendees will stand in the Governor's Office during remarks – she and Mikee Johnson will stand in front of the fireplace, others in a loose semi-circle facing her

PURPOSE: McCormick County is the 2nd in South Carolina to achieve the Certified Work Ready Community designation.

PRESS: No

PUBLIC: No

SPEAKING ORDER/LINE-BY-LINE:

Earlier – Early arrivals are held in the conference room

3:45 PM – Participants are led into the Governor's Office, Gov. Haley is introduced to individual members of McCormick County's group by Elisabeth Kovacs (CWRC Project Manager at DEW) as they enter

3:46 PM – Gov. Haley welcomes attendees, offers remarks to group

3:50 PM – Mikee Johnson (Chairman, State Workforce Investment Board) offers brief remarks

3:53 PM – Gov. Haley presents Charles Jennings, Chair of the McCormick County Council, with framed certificate

3:54 PM – Charles Jennings offers remarks on behalf of the McCormick group

3:56 PM – Gov. Haley poses with McCormick County group for a picture

3:58 PM – Event concludes

INVITEES:

Members of McCormick County's Work Ready Community Team:

- ☐ Anne BARRON, Executive Director, McCormick County Chamber of Commerce
- ☐ Rusty DENNING, VP Continuing Education, Piedmont Technical College
- ☐ Tommy GOODE, WorkKeys/Job Profiler, Upper Savannah Council of Governments
- ☐ Charles JENNINGS, Chairman, McCormick County Council (and sponsor of the McCormick CWRC group)
- ☐ Sandra JOHNSON, Administrator, Upper Savannah Council of Governments
- ☐ Cynthia PITTS, US Regional Education Coordinator
- ☐ Rodney ROBINSON, Director of Adult Education, McCormick County School District
- ☐ Tim SHIRLEY, Director of Manufacturing, Mt. Vernon Mills
- ☐ Jesse SIBERT, Chair, Upper Savannah Workforce Investment Board
- ☐ Columbus STEPHENS, Administrator, McCormick County
- ☐ Dr. William T. WRIGHT, Superintendent, McCormick County School District

Members of the State's Project Team:

- ☐ Rebecca Battle BRYANT, Assistant Executive Director, SC Department of Employment and Workforce
- ☐ Dr. Nancy BUSBEE, Deputy Superintendent, SC Department of Education
- ☐ Rick COTHRAN, Dean of Corporate and Community Education, Tri-County Technical College

- Anne IRIEL, Director of Planning and Program Development, SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department
- Mandy KIBLER, VP for Finance and Government Relations, SC Technical College System
- Michael McINERNEY, Director of External Affairs, SC Department of Commerce
- George PATRICK, Deputy Secretary, SC Department of Commerce
- James RICHTER, Director of Communications and Marketing, SC Manufacturers Alliance
- Christian SOURA
- Dr. David STOUT, Director of Adult Education, SC Department of Education

BACKGROUND:

- Each county seeking “Certified Work Ready Community” status filed an application in early 2013. County project teams had to include representatives from local government, education, economic development, and the business community.
- In their applications, the county-based teams document their strategies for providing assessments to high school, college, and adult education students, along with the unemployed who are preparing to enter or re-enter the workforce. They also define their goals for assessing skills, profiling jobs, and bringing prospective employees and employers together.
- McCormick County is the 2nd county in South Carolina to be certified – Clarendon County was first. Certification is good for 2 years.
- NOTE: For reference, these are the criteria for a Certified Work Ready Community:
 - A certain number of individuals in that county must earn National Career Readiness Certificates (NCRC), based on the county’s population.
 - Counties must demonstrate a certain level of private sector support, also tied to population.
 - A county must have a 73.1% high school graduation rate, based upon a 3-year rolling average. This figure was developed in collaboration with the SC Department of Education.
 - 25% of the individuals who obtain a NCRC in that county must take the Talent Assessment, which measures those “soft skills” that are so important to employers.

TALKING POINTS:

- When I call executives to try to bring jobs to South Carolina, they talk about taxes, and sometimes they talk about our business climate, but they always ask about our workforce. Do we have the skilled workers that they need? This initiative helps us make sure that my answer can always be, “Yes!”
- There are about 90,000 job seekers here right now, but at the same time, there are more than 110,000 jobs that are available, just waiting to be filled. That’s more open jobs than jobseekers! This initiative is about matching-up those who are looking for work with businesses that are ready to hire.
- When we started taking applications to be a Certified Work Ready Community, every single county signed up. But you – McCormick County – you’re only the **2nd county** to make it. Congratulations to you on that accomplishment.
- Thanks to all of you who are part of this team, for making this possible. And thanks also to those of you at the state level who have helped counties along the way.
- In particular, I also want to thank:
 - Mikee Johnson, who is a dear friend and is doing a tremendous job leading our State Workforce Investment Board.
 - Jesse Sibert from Milliken and Tim Shirley from Mt. Vernon Mills, whose businesses have anchored this

project in McCormick County.

- Charles Jennings, who chairs the McCormick County Council and has sponsored this initiative at the local level.

- The Certified Work-Ready Communities Initiative is the kind of locally-driven, public-private partnership that we love to see. We're so proud of your success – thanks so much for coming.

Christian L. Soura

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