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## NIKKI R. HALEY

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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For immediate release  
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### **Gov. Nikki Haley, Department of Juvenile Justice Celebrate Job Readiness Training Center** *Helping South Carolina At-Risk Youth Become Job Ready*

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** – Governor Nikki Haley today joined Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Director Margaret Barber and Commerce Secretary Robert Hitt in opening the agency's new and innovative DJJ's Job Readiness Training Center (JRTC). The opening ceremony and ribbon cutting were held at the facility, 1600 Shivers Road (at Broad River Road intersection).

The JRTC is DJJ's newest job readiness concept in response to the need to better prepare at-risk youth for employment and has been developed in collaboration with corporate and local business partnerships. Primarily, the JRTC is designed to enhance the learning experience through the delivery of life and job skills training to youth ages 12 to 18, who are on probation, parole or in committed status. The program will also be offered to other juveniles in a preventative capacity.

Training will include life and job skills classes that will be offered at the facility and through video conference links from several remote locations around the state. DJJ's goal is to reduce the barriers to employment for at-risk youth who often lack the skills needed to find employment.

"The work Director Barber and all of DJJ is doing to help produce competent and skilled workers for South Carolina is critical," said Gov. Haley. "This job training is not only the right thing to do, but it is improving the lives of the at-risk youths within DJJ and will pay long-term benefits to our state as a whole."

"As staunch supporters of preparing youth for jobs, all of us at DJJ appreciate the backing of our corporate and business partnerships and community partners for directing support to the goals of the JRTC," said Director Barber. "It is our responsibility to inspire our young people to perform up to their potential; to offer them the tools to create a competitive edge."

For more information about DJJ go to [www.state.sc.us/djj](http://www.state.sc.us/djj).

**About DJJ:**

*As the state agency responsible for providing rehabilitation and custodial care for the state's juveniles who are on probation, incarcerated, or on parole for a criminal or status offense, DJJ actively seeks partnerships that foster its mission. DJJ's mission is to protect the public and reclaim juveniles through prevention, community services, education, and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.*

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