

From: Kovacs, Elisabeth <EKovacs@dew.sc.gov>
To: Soura, ChristianChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov
Date: 6/13/2013 5:34:29 PM
Subject: FW: Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Seniors Excel in Workforce Skills

They're milking it!

From: Rosa Boland [mailto:rboland@southerncarolina.org]
Subject: Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Seniors Excel in Workforce Skills



FOR
IMMEDIA
TE
RELEASE

CONTAC
T: Kay
Maxwell
June 13,
2013

(803)541-0023

Bamber
g-
Ehrhard
t High
School
Seniors
Excel in
Workfo
rce
Skills
Governor
Nikki

Haley's recently announced "South Carolina Work Ready Communities" initiative to certify the quality of S.C.'s workforce is off to a great start in her hometown of Bamberg, South Carolina, according to officials at Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance (SCA), the nonprofit economic development organization representing Bamberg County and leading the S.C. Work Ready program in Bamberg and

Allendale
Counties.
In March,
the
Senior
Class of
Bamberg-
Ehrhardt
High
School
took the
WorkKey
s® test,
the ACT
standardi
zed test
for
evaluatin
g skills in
the
workplac
e, which
is a key
compon
ent of the
Governor
's multi-
faceted
workforc
e
certificati
on
initiative.
According
to the
results
received
from ACT,
93% of
the
Bamberg-
Ehrhardt
High
School
Class of
2013
rated as
"Work
Ready,"
scoring at
the
Bronze,
Silver and

Gold
proficiency
levels.

“The
Work
Ready
Communi-
ty
initiative
is an
important
statewide
project
that
assures
businesses
that
South
Carolina
has the
skilled
workforce
they
need to
grow and
thrive in
our state,
” said
Governor
Haley. “
I’m proud
that my
hometown
of
Bamberg
has
jumped
to the
forefront
of this
effort and
that 93%
of the
seniors at
Bamberg-
Ehrhardt
High
School
who took
WorkKeys
tests this
year

earned
either a
Gold,
Silver, or
Bronze
certificate
."

"The high
percenta
ge of
students
scoring at
this level
is an
accomplis
hment to
be
celebrate
d," said
SCA
Chairman
Johnny
Williamso
n of
Denmark.

"We
congratul
ate the
Class of
2013, as
well as
the
teachers,
parents
and
administr
ators in
Bamberg
School
District 1.
"

"From
Bamberg
County
Council, I
would
like to
commend
our
educators
for their

dedication to our students, who will matriculate into the workforce and our institutions of higher learning," said County Council Chairman Alzena Robinson.

"These graduates are our emerging workforce, and we are proud that they are ready for good jobs and promising futures."

"Bamberg seniors are showing employers they are serious about their future and careers by becoming career ready certified," added Joni

McDaniel,
Coordinat
or of the
Lower
Savannah
Regional
Education
Center,
whose
region
includes
Bamberg
County.

Develope
d by ACT,
the
WorkKey
s® testing
program
is a
nationally
recognize
d and
respected
credential
that
demonstr
ates to
businesse
s that
individual
s have
the skills
needed in
the
workplac
e and
evaluates
strengths
and
weakness
es in their
skill
levels.
South
Carolina
was one
of four
pilot
states
selected
by ACT to

participate in the ACT Certified Work Ready Community program. The South Carolina initiative certifies the quality of the workforce based on four criteria. Counties must meet goals for high school graduation, soft skills development, business support, and National Career Readiness Certificate holders.

The WorkKeys® test is the centerpiece of the program. "Bamberg School District One has been using the ACT

WorkKeys®
program
for a
number
of years,"
said
District
Superinte
ndent Dr.
Phyllis
Schwartin
g, "and
we are
extremely
pleased
with
these
scores,
which are
our best
ones yet."
Dr.
Schwartin
g
attributes
their
success
to, "a
good,
solid
foundatio
n from
kindergar
ten
forward,
emphasiz
ing both
academic
s and life
skills
througho
ut, and
the
nurturing
that our
students
receive in
a small
school
setting."
"The
WorkKeys
test can

benchmark those skills which are difficult to measure, such as soft skills, as well as specialized skills," added Schwarting. "We are proud of our students. Many will seek college degrees or technical training, while some will enter the workforce immediately. These test results reveal that all of them are ready for future opportunities in the workforce." According to Kell Anderson, Southern Carolina Alliance's Bamberg

County
Economic
Develop
ment
Director,
most of
the
industries
in the
region
utilize the
WorkKey
s®
program
in some
manner,
and all of
the
schools in
the six-
county
SCA
region
test their
students
in
WorkKey
s®.

“Local
industries
use the
WorkKeys
scores to
assess
the ability
of job
candidate
s in
locating
informati
on and
understa
nding
directions
, as well
as math
skills
levels,”
said
Anderson
. “It’s a
great tool
to

identify strengths and weaknesses, then design training to prepare a candidate for a job or promotion. The strong scores achieved by the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School students provide a great marketing tool for industrial recruitment as well.

In a rural community, prospective industries want assurances that we will be able to provide a skilled workforce. These scores indicate that Bamberg County's emerging workforce is ready for

today's advanced manufacturing jobs." Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance will lead the countywide committee to help Bamberg County achieve the "Work Ready Community" status. Leaders from local industries, Denmark Technical College, area high schools, adult education leaders and workforce development partners will comprise a team effort to ensure that Bamberg County's workforce

e is ready
for
current
and
future
jobs.

The
program
includes
the
current
workforc
e, the
unemplo
yed,
veterans,
and
recent
graduates

. To find
out more
about the
program
or to take
the
the
WorkKey
s® test,
please
contact
Kell
Anderson
at
(803)541-
0023.

#

SouthernC
arolina
Regional
Developme
nt Alliance

[www.](http://www.southerncarolina.org)

[SouthernC
arolina.
org](http://www.southerncarolina.org)

[kmaxwell@southerncarolina](mailto:kmaxwell@southerncarolina.org)

[.org](http://www.southerncarolina.org)

803.541.00

23