

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

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They're milking it!

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



FOR  
IMMEDIA  
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RELEASE

CONTAC  
T: Kay  
Maxwell  
June 13,  
2013

(803)541-0023

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Ehrhard  
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Seniors  
Excel in  
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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  
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for  
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the  
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is a key  
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nt of the  
Governor  
's multi-  
faceted  
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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  
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program  
is a  
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recognize  
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credential  
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evaluates  
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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  
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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  
specialize  
d skills,"  
added  
Schwartin  
g. "We  
are proud  
of our  
students.  
Many will  
seek  
college  
degrees  
or  
technical  
training,  
while  
some will  
enter the  
workforc  
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immediat  
ely.  
These  
test  
results  
reveal  
that all of  
them are  
ready for  
future  
opportun  
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workforc  
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According  
to Kell  
Anderson  
,  
Southern  
Carolina  
Alliance's  
Bamberg

County  
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most of  
the  
industries  
in the  
region  
utilize the  
WorkKey  
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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  
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jobs."  
Southern  
Carolina  
Regional  
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Alliance  
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committe  
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Bamberg  
County  
achieve  
the  
"Work  
Ready  
Communi  
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status.  
Leaders  
from local  
industries  
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Denmark  
Technical  
College,  
area high  
schools,  
adult  
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Bamberg  
County's  
workforc

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for  
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and  
future  
jobs.

The  
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and  
recent  
graduates

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

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SouthernC  
arolina  
Regional  
Developme  
nt Alliance

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

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

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

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

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

803.541.00

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