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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Post and Courier: Haley: Business, jobs top priority
Governor looks back, and to future
Sunday, February 12, 2012

EDITOR'S NOTE: Creating more jobs was a top priority for South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley as she campaigned -- and remains so a year into her term.

Those visiting her suite of offices in the Statehouse see a computer monitor announcing that the state has seen 20,600 new jobs created since she took office in January 2011.

Those entering her reception area find a state map with push pins where companies have expanded or relocated to create new jobs, but a nearby chart shows the state's unemployment remaining stubbornly high -- one point above the national average.

Haley recently sat down with reporter Robert Behre to talk about economic development in the state. ...

P&C: What is the next big step?

Haley: "I have people who need jobs, and I have companies that need workers, and there is a black hole in there that is not connecting the dots. ... Not only are you going to see us focus in on training with actual measures that we've never done before, but the training that we're going to do is so nationally accredited (through the nonprofit ACT organization) that manufacturing companies and all types of companies across the country will know it's a trained workforce."

P&C: Will you be able to get the state's unemployment rate below the national average by the end of your first term?

Haley: "It's my goal. And I don't even want it below the national average. I want to see how low we can get it." ...

P&C: How can the Legislature help you with economic development?

Haley: "I need tax reform in a way that we are phasing out a corporate income tax, that we are simplifying the personal income tax and we are reducing the manufacturing tax, and I've got nothing but strong support, especially from the house. And I've told them we need stronger (anti) union bills."

P&C: What anti-union measures do you want to see?

Haley: "There are bills introduced we are pushing that would basically make them show their financial records ... so we know which politicians are getting paid, which consultants are getting paid and we want to know all of their national contracts. ... We're just going to make it harder for them to come into our state." ...

P&C: How does your approach to economic development differ from that of your predecessor, Gov. Mark Sanford?

Haley: "I know what it's like to be on the side of small business. ... I tell every company that I talk to that I will be their No. 1 employee and that my job is continue to make sure they have cash flow and they continue to have profit margins. The second thing is I give them my cell number and I tell them when they have a problem they don't have to call anyone else in government. They can call me directly."

The entire Q & A is available [here](#).

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