NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgetown County achieves Certified Work Ready Community designation

GEORGETOWN COUNTY — Georgetown County is now a certified Work Ready community through the S.C. Work Ready Communities Initiative. The announcement was made by Gov. Nikki Haley’s office yesterday and demonstrates Georgetown County has a robust workforce development initiative in place that links education and workforce development together, and aligns them to economic development and job placement.

To receive Work Ready Community status, a county must meet population-based criteria set by the state regarding workforce and supporting employers. Georgetown County exceeded its goals on every level, with a total goal of 681 potential employees who have taken the WorkKeys assessment, and 93 supporting employers. Georgetown County had 1,455 potential employees complete the assessment and registered 96 supporting employers.

“Receiving our certification as a Work Ready Community is further evidence that Georgetown County is serious about recruiting businesses to our community,” said Brian Tucker, director of the county’s Economic Development Department.

Achieving certification required collaboration between county government, existing businesses in the county, Horry-Georgetown Technical College and Georgetown County School District.

“This level of partnership signifies our united effort to move the county forward,” Tucker said. “Having a qualified workforce is the driving factor in the recruitment process and we will continue to work with our partners to provide our citizens with the needed skills to compete for quality jobs.”

The Work Ready Community program utilizes WorkKeys assessments and the National Career Readiness Certificate to measure an individual’s foundational workplace skills, such as math, reading for information, and other skills required for the majority of today’s jobs. WorkKeys assessments measure “real world” skills that are highly valued by employers and that are critical to job success.
Employees score platinum, gold, silver or bronze. Supporting employers specify the level they are looking for when hiring and can be assured by an employee’s assessment rating that candidates have the skills they need.

South Carolina’s Certified Work Ready Communities initiative aims to ensure the growth of South Carolina communities by creating an environment conducive to business and workforce development. The Work Ready Community initiative enables community leaders to rally behind the concept of a ready-to-work workforce. County Council members, superintendents, principals, teachers and business leaders play a part in this effort, creating a team approach to workforce development and attracting businesses to South Carolina and their community in particular.

Kershaw and York counties were also recently certified, joining 33 others in the state. South Carolina leads the nation with the most Certified Work Ready communities.

“We have always said that our state’s greatest asset is our workforce because of the hardworking, skilled people who call South Carolina home,” said Gov. Nikki Haley. “The fact that [these counties] have now joined 33 other counties by being certified as work ready proves that all of Team South Carolina is hard at work toward providing our citizens with opportunity and our companies with the best workforce in the world.”

“We celebrate what this means for these counties and our state,” said Cheryl M. Stanton, executive director for the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce. “With the Work Ready initiative, and a continuing commitment to skilled workforce development, it is not surprising that employment numbers have been at historic highs over the last year and companies continue to expand and choose South Carolina as the place to do business.”

For more information, visit www.workreadycommunities.org/sc.

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**Georgetown County Work Ready Community Goals and Results**

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<th>Actual</th>
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