

the signal

July to December, 2010

The Employer Connection for Catawba Workforce System News

Five Upstate Colleges Partner on Workforce Initiative

GSA Daily
Published Oct. 8, 2010

[TechReadySC](#), a collaboration of five Upstate South Carolina technical and community colleges and the South Carolina Technical College System office, has launched a workforce development initiative developed by the National Association of Manufacturers in 2005.

The program is called [Dream It Do It](#) and aspires to attract more young people to careers in manufacturing. York Technical College unveiled the program on October 12th. Jennifer McNelly, senior vice president of the [Manufacturing Institute](#) was the keynote speaker and discussed the success of DIDI in other regions of the county. Local business leaders also discussed the importance of the DIDI program.

Greenville Technical College, Piedmont Technical College, Spartanburg Community College, Tri-County Technical College, York Technical College and the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance are part of the program, developed with a grant from AdvanceSC. "It is more important than ever for South Carolina to position itself as competitive in the global marketplace," said Lewis Gossett, president and CEO of the S.C. Manufacturers Alliance. "Having a qualified and skilled workforce is the backbone for economic prosperity, and it is our mission through Dream It Do It to communicate to young people the rewarding and broad range of career opportunities available to them in manufacturing."

TechReadySC's core mission is to build a more competitive workforce in the Upstate by providing innovative services to meet the economy's existing and emerging human performance needs. The first major charge for the collaboration was to develop a standardized curriculum among the five Upstate partner colleges leading to specialty certificates and associate degrees in the area of mechatronics technology.

Mechatronics is an interdisciplinary field that includes mechanical, instrumentation, electronics, robotics, automation, computer components and control systems. The program is designed to educate technicians to troubleshoot equipment problems for a manufacturing sector that is becoming increasingly high tech and requires workers to have a broad understanding of equipment.

Employment Statistics

October 2010 (Source: SC Department of Employment & Workforce)			
County	Unemployment Rate	State Ranking (46 Counties)	Total # Unemployed
Chester	16.0%	5th	2,408
Lancaster	14.2%	9th	4,209
York	13.5%	13th	14,856
State	10.7%		230,600
National	9.6%		

Economists at USC's [Darla Moore School of Business](#) predict modest growth for the state in the new year, but they don't expect it to be evenly spread statewide. USC researchers estimate that the state's employment will grow by 1.2% in 2011, the strongest forecast in four years, according to economist Doug Woodward. Job growth in 2010 limped along at a rate of 0.1%. He and the USC team predict the growth will be particularly strong in the Upstate and Lowcountry. The Upstate will get a boost as the automotive cluster grows, Woodward said. Car sales have nowhere to go but up, and that will help the sector, he said. One area of the state that should thrive: Rock Hill. It will continue to tap into the economic prosperity of the Charlotte metro area, Woodward said. Despite the forecast of modest growth, the state still will have lower employment levels than it did before the recession. If the state maintained 1.2% job growth, it would not return to pre-recession employment levels until sometime in 2014, according to USC economist Joseph Von Nessen.

For more information on employment and labor market information, go to www.dew.sc.gov

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Administered by Catawba Regional Council of Governments

Chester, Lancaster, York Counties

www.catawbaonestop.com



Catawba Region's OneStops Serve Record Numbers

The Catawba Regional Workforce Investment Area, one of 12 workforce investment areas in the state, has assisted record numbers of dislocated and adult job seekers during the national economic downturn. The Catawba Regional Workforce Investment Area includes Chester, Lancaster, and York counties. Job seekers and employers have access to a wide variety of services through the Catawba One-Stop Workforce System. One-Stop Centers are located in each county.

During Program Year 2009 which began July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, the One-Stop centers received 223,405 customer visits, with an average of more than 32,000 customers seeking services each month. A total of 13,529 attended over 1,600 group workshops on resume writing, interviewing skills, job search techniques, networking, etc. Other numbers for the program year included 1,684 individuals enrolled in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult program and 1,389 in the dislocated worker program. A total of 245 participated in the WIA Summer Youth program while 242 are currently enrolled in the year-round youth program.

For Labor Market Information, visit
WWW.SCONESTOP.COM

Incumbent Worker Training Grants Help Local Employees Gain Additional Skills

Catawba Regional Workforce Investment Board Assists Companies with Training

The Catawba Regional Workforce Investment Board (WIB) awarded eighteen local employers **Incumbent Worker Training Grants** totaling \$159,600 for the program year of 2010-2011. The funding for these grants is provided by the Federal Workforce Investment Act and is administered at the state level by the SC Department of Employment & Workforce - State Workforce Investment Board. Each employer will use the grant to upgrade the skills of their current workforce and increase their competitive advantage in their respective marketplace.

Companies that received IWT Grants are as follows:

BI-LO, LLC	Sherer Dental Laboratories	Lloyd & McKenzie Ltd
Chemtrade Logistics	Lexington Precision	Ajax Rolled Ring
CVS	Wikoff Color	AbitibiBowater
Chester Wood Products	Possehl Connector	Composite Resources
The Schaeffler Group	Chester Regional Medical Center	Daimler Trucks North America
PBI Performance Products	ATS Carolina	Arvin Meritor



INFORMATION ZONE

Workforce Investment Act Board of Directors elects new officers

Dennis Hemphill elected as WIB Chairman

The Catawba Regional Workforce Investment Board which administers the Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds for Chester, Lancaster and York Counties elected **Dennis Hemphill** as chairman at its November meeting. Dennis will replace **Marvin Starks**, General Manager of Nibrol, a Lancaster County window treatment manufacturer. Marvin served in various capacities on the WIA Board since 2002. He has been instrumental in many WIA programs and is passionate about helping local workers, job seekers and area companies improve their competitive edge. As a volunteer member of the WIA Board, Marvin represented Lancaster County, the Catawba Region and its people with integrity and diligence. His experience, ideas and leadership will be sorely missed.

Other appointments approved were **Ms. Monica Craig** as Vice-Chairperson. Monica is the Branch Manager for Phillips Staffing located in Lancaster. **Dr. Carolyn Stewart**, Executive Vice President of York Technical College, will serve as Secretary.

The Board is comprised of 28 volunteers that give their time and commitment to help retrain adult, dislocated workers and youth within the Catawba Region. Other members of the Catawba WIB are:

- **Dean Faile**, Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce, Lancaster County
- **Tom Kellerhal**, Westminster Group, Chester County
- **Teresa Curtice**, York County Economic Development, York County
- **Kristin Zalar**, Maclean Power System, York County
- **Diana Eastep**, Dental One Partners, York County
- **Karen Craig**, The Schaeffler Group, York County
- **Kathleen Powell**, Proctor & Gamble, Lancaster County
- **Joan Winters**, Winters Attorney at Law, Chester County
- **Dennis Hemphill**, Teledyne Allvac, Chester County
- **Ritchie Monteith**, Abitibi Bowater, York County
- **Tim Stowe**, Tri-District Adult Education, York County
- **Paul Simpson**, Tyco Electronics, York County
- **Lonnie Harvey**, Jesclon Group, York County
- **Tom Drumwright**, ArvinMeritor, York County

- **Gary Blevins**, Sherer Dental Labs, York County
- **Walter Kellogg**, Community-based Organization
- **Dennis Joiner**, Chester County DSS
- **Annie Reid**, SC Department of Employment & Workforce
- **Michael Rallings**, Abitibi Bowater, Labor
- **Kathy Tinney**, AARP Senior Employment Services
- **Phyllis Williams**, SC Indian Development Council
- **Mark Cable**, Abitibi Bowater, Labor
- **Jerry Witherspoon**, Lancaster Housing Authority, Lancaster County
- **Barry Waddell**, SC Vocational Rehabilitation
- **Keith Tunnell**, Lancaster County Economic Development Corporation, Lancaster County

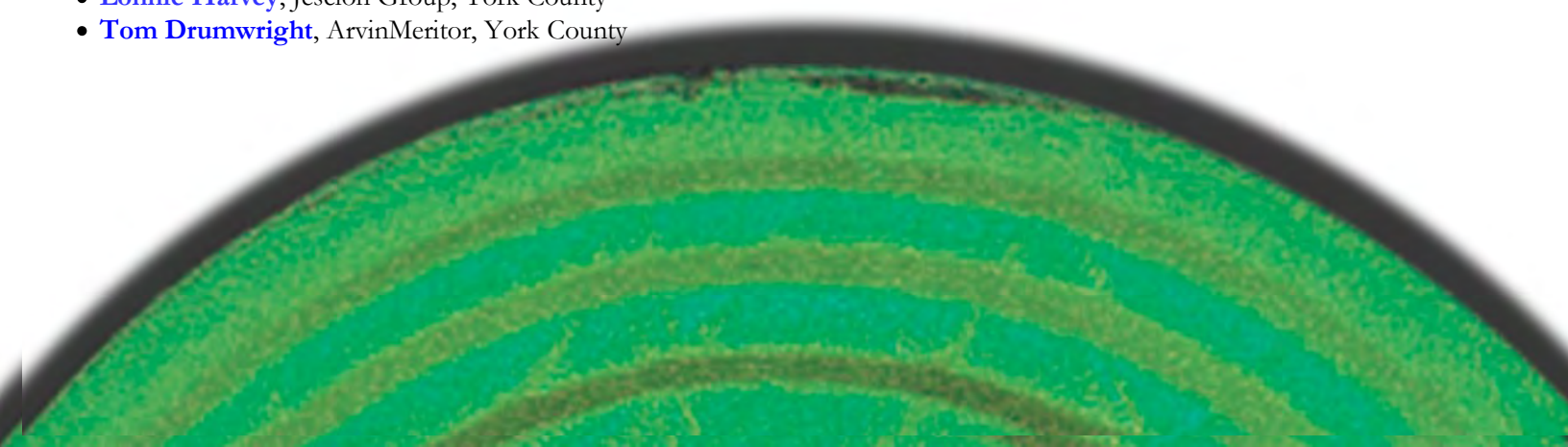
We thank our Board members who volunteer their time and commitment to help develop a highly skilled productive workforce for our region. For more information on the Catawba WIB, please contact Nicole Lawing at (803) 327-9041 or by email at nlawing@catawbacog.org.

South Carolina Ranks #5 in *Site Selection's* 2010 Top State Business Climate Rankings

Site Selection magazine has released its 2010 Top State Business Climate Rankings. South Carolina picked up the #5 spot in the 2010 Rankings.

According to *Site Selection*, "South Carolina is quietly becoming a transportation-industry powerhouse, with automotive investment clustering in the Upstate and aerospace anchored by Boeing in N. Charleston, with many other sector projects announced in recent years."

Site Selection evaluates the states annually using a four-part index of criteria linked to the magazine's proprietary New Plant database of new and expanded facilities and a survey of corporate site selectors indicating their preference for state business climates. To view *Site Selection's* 2010 Top State Business Climate Rankings, visit www.siteselection.com



OJT FUNDS

CATAWBA REGION RECEIVES ADDITIONAL OJT FUNDS

HIRING NEW EMPLOYEES?.....Then, contact your local OneStop to take advantage of the On-The-Job Training Program and receive reimbursements up to 75% of each trainee's wages. The Catawba Regional WIA has received additional funds for use in the OJT Program. For more details, call your local OneStop Center.

Western York County Businesses Form HR Roundtable

Opportunity to network and share best practices

Recently, a group of Western York County businesses organized an HR Roundtable for the York/Clover area. Lisa Bell, Director of Human Resources for Jameson in Clover, has volunteered to lead the group during its first year. The roundtable held its first meeting on November 9 at the Jameson Corporation's facility.

Tanya Pettus, HR Assistant at Jameson, is assisting Lisa with the organization and startup of the networking group. They are both excited about spearheading the Western York County HR Roundtable for the area. Lisa stated, "I think we are going to receive good participation and as the word spreads, we will continue to grow. Our first meeting was on November 9, 2010. The majority of our time spent was getting to know each other and discussing how we would like to move forward. We determined that meetings would be held four times per year at various company locations. Each company that hosts the meetings will select the time. The dates for 2011 are **2/9, 5/11, 8/10 & 11/9**. Tanya will maintain the member list and will coordinate the invitations for each host company."

If you and your company are located in Western York County and would be interested in joining the Roundtable, please e-mail Tanya at tpettus@jamesoncorp.com.

Contact the One-Stop Center nearest you!

Chester Workforce Center
764 Wilson Street . Chester . SC 29706
Phone: 803.377.8147 TTY: 711
Fax: 803.581.5262
Travis George . Area Director

Lancaster Workforce Center
705 North White Street . Lancaster.SC 29720
Phone: 803.285.6966 TTY: 711
Fax: 803.285.1241
David Veal . Asst. Director

Rock Hill Workforce Center
1228 Fincher Road . Rock Hill .SC 29731
Phone: 803.328.3881 TTY: 711
Fax: 803.328.3836
Annie Reid . Area Director

Catawba Regional Council of Governments
Catawba Regional Workforce System
215 Hampton Street . Rock Hill . SC 29731
Phone: 803.327.9041 TTY 711
Fax: 803.327.1912
Nicole Lawing . WIA Administrator
Reid Baker . Business/Industry Services

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