



South Carolina Tri-County Region develops dependable pipeline for manufacturing jobs

To provide a pipeline of dependable, quality workers for manufacturing jobs, the Tri-County Region developed an approach supported by ACT WorkKeys® solutions.

RESULTS:



13,677

certified workers

now hold an ACT NCRC credential and 2234 have also earned a MSSC Production Tech Certification.



274

high school students

participating in Technical Careers Pathways Dual Enrollment with 154 graduating.



265

regional employers

supporting three ACT Work Ready Communities with 60 engaged in work-based learning including Robert Bosch, Johnson Controls, Michelin, Glen Raven and United Tool and Mold

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS USED:



Ensuring a skilled workforce for manufacturing job growth

THE BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Over the next five years, regional labor projections show that manufacturing sector jobs to be filled will grow by 6.2% — this translates into 1,236 jobs.

The current Tri-County Region manufacturing labor pool is about 173,000, mostly driven by industry in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens County.

The priority is to ensure that potential employees have the middle skills needed to fill these jobs with a focus on advanced manufacturing production as well as other technology-related workforce needs.

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The Tri-county regional workforce development team has created a successful manufacturing workforce training program by leveraging the ACT NCRC and the MSSC industry-valued credential, helping us place job seekers into good manufacturing jobs in our region.”

Trent Acker
Executive Director, WorkLink

Collaborative partnerships = Work Ready Communities

THE SOLUTION

Building on their use of ACT workforce solutions, the Tri-County Region (comprised of 3 certified counties) came together through ACT Work Ready Communities, fully leveraging the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate® (NCRC).

Tri County Technical College, the main training provider, has successfully developed both credit and non-credit manufacturing programs including the South Carolina Manufacturing Certification program, an apprenticeship program teaching in-demand manufacturing skills to both adults and youth.

Tri-County has partnered with area school districts to create Technical Career Pathways, a dual-enrollment program to build skills employers need and prepare youth for those jobs by providing pathways. The region has also partnered over 180 students this year to create robust industry-based learning opportunities with over 60 sites where over 180 students this year gained hands-on experience.

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We use ACT Career Ready 101, a part of the ACT Curriculum, to skill up our high school students at the Career and Technology Centers to better prepare them for success. Our goal is to help students achieve Silver and Gold on the ACT NCRC.”

Kelli Lancaster

School to Career Coordinator, Anderson I & II Career and Technical Center

Regional impact

OUTCOMES

\$20-MILLION INVESTMENT IN OCONEE COUNTY.

Based on the region's talent pipeline, Baxter Enterprises, a supplier to BMW, was recruited by Oconee Economic Alliance and is bringing 90 new manufacturing jobs to the Tri-County Region.

THE SCHOLAR TECHNICIAN® program in Pickens County recognizes the most skilled student in the region while raising funds for STEM equipment for the local technical high school.

As a result, Pickens students are in-demand. Some of the largest manufacturers in the state now make routine recruiting visits to the Pickens County technical high school. To date, the county has seen an estimated 22% increase in students engaged in STEM competition programs and a 25% increase in enrollment at the technical high school.

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South Carolina's adoption of NCRC is a valid accompaniment to Scholar Technician®. Students graduating from our technical high school with stacked credentials and a solid NCRC score are well positioned to pursue successful technical careers.”

Jeromy Arnett

Quality Manager, United Tool & Mold, Inc.

SEGMENT OVERVIEW

The Tri-County Region consists of Tri-County Technical College, Career and Technology Centers, K–12 schools, workforce agencies, vocational rehabilitation centers, adult education, and county economic development agencies.

“ACT WorkKeys solutions and ACT Work Ready Communities are used by all three counties that comprise the Tri-County Region. These tools are building blocks for developing a strong workforce ready to fill the advanced manufacturing jobs of today and tomorrow.”

Rick Murphy

Regional Workforce Advisor, South Carolina Department of Commerce

ACT WORK READY COMMUNITIES

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina was one of the inaugural partners in the ACT Work Ready Communities program and has several collections of counties leveraging the NCRC to close the skills gap and strengthen their region's economy.

See what other counties are work ready at www.workreadycommunities.org.