

# Upper Savannah Workforce Partners/Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board

## *Upcoming Opportunities:*

Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board, Monday, November 6, 3:30pm – 5 pm, Upper Savannah Council of Governments, 430 Helix Road, Greenwood SC

Edgefield County Job Fair; Monday, November 6, 1pm to 3 pm, PTC Edgefield, 506 Main Street, Edgefield.

Abbeville County Road Trip: Tuesday, November 7, 10am to noon, Abbeville County School District school jobs including; bus driver (free training), substitute teaching pool, and maintenance

Adult Education open house: County-wide job fair, PTC 1:00pm to 3:00 pm

Laurens/Newberry Showcase, Wednesday, November 8th, 9 am to 2 pm

McCormick County Road Trip: Resource Fair with Health Screenings, Wednesday, November 8th, 9 am to noon. Talmadge Fitness Center, located at 19315 S Main Street, McCormick; County-wide job fair, 1pm-3 pm.

Upper Savannah Workforce System Partner Meeting, Friday December 8, 10 to noon. Place TBA

Whew! I don't know about you, but I am tired thinking about the next month. But we are doing exactly what we need to do; *telling people how they can access valuable services and resources to help them get and keep good jobs.*

## **A quick recap of summer and early fall successes:**

- Eckerd Connects, the WIOA service provider, is operational in all counties. Since June they have enrolled 44 new clients. The manager is Kimbearly Smith and you can send potential clients to her at [ksmith@eckerd.org](mailto:ksmith@eckerd.org), 864.377.9604.
- We held a job fair in Saluda attracting nearly 50 job seekers.
- The regional job fair offered in conjunction with PTC was a huge success, attracting more than 400 job seekers and 80 employers. It was the biggest event since the pandemic.
- Patricia Z. Crawford was recognized at the state Workforce Symposium as Upper Savannah's Workforce Hero.

**We want to hear your successes!**

Rather than have an outside speaker, the Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board is inviting each partner program to present a success story at the November 6 meeting. We encourage a partner representative to be present, but a Zoom option will be available. Each presentation can be up to five minutes and should include: summary of employment barriers the client faced, the interventions offered or resources provided and the outcome. If you have permission, you may use the client's name and likeness (and invite them). Otherwise, you can share the story in a way that does not identify the client. We want the board to hear the good things you do and think this format will provide a quick snapshot of workforce development activities in the area. We have a lot of partners: SCDEW, Voc Rehab, Commission for the Blind, DSS, Job Corp, Goodwill, CSBG, PCT, Adult Ed (six providers) and WIOA. I would like the board representative for DEW, VR and Adult Ed to either make the presentation or introduce the presenter. Any partner who wants to participate should contact Ann Skinner, [askinner@uppersavannah.com](mailto:askinner@uppersavannah.com) or 864.941.8074.

**We want to invite you to participate in county road show events.** Roy Lowe's staff is coordinating the events and still has space for employers, human services vendors and education providers. We need help sharing the news about the events and Roy can deliver stacks of flyers for distribution. Roy's contact info is: [rlope@des.sc.gov](mailto:rlope@des.sc.gov); 864.344.3142.

**The Laurens/Newberry Showcase features businesses from those counties and introduces eighth grade students to careers.** They are seeking promotional goodies for bags and still have space for employers. The contact is Dabs Davis. ([davis.l@ptc.edu](mailto:davis.l@ptc.edu))

**Workforce Development in South Carolina is undergoing transformation.** The Statewide Education and Workforce Act which passed last year is bringing together traditional partners plus adding: K-12, Career and Technology Education centers, four-year colleges, SC Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Department of Veterans Affairs, Economic Development, Parks Recreation and Tourism and First Steps. The goal is to have a unified state plan with performance goals. The Coordinating Council for Workforce Development has had an initial meeting and is listening to groups.

Charles Appleby the council's senior advisor will be speaker for the **December 8, Upper Savannah Workforce Partners Meeting.** Workforce Development Board members will be invited as well. He will share the coordinating council's goals. Because we will be working with a wider range of stakeholders in the future, we will invite local representatives from those entities to join us as well. We hope to feature success stories at the partner meeting also. Story telling is a powerful tool that can help us connect. The venue for the December 8th event has not yet been set. Can you please put this on your calendar and consider including as many staff as possible? I know every agency balances serving clients and participating in networking and professional development. I think this is an opportunity for front-line staff to hear how they are part of a bigger system.

Thanks for being a valued, SC Works partner. Please let us know how we can help you reach your goals. Each week we send out a Hot Jobs List to a hundred stakeholders. We post new content on the Upper Savannah Facebook page frequently, and the system has an event at least once a month. To ensure you are getting all communications, contact Charles Camp, Upper Savannah SC Works One Stop Manager at [chcamp@eckerd.org](mailto:chcamp@eckerd.org), 864.377.5322.