

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Dec. 16

Workforce Development announces 19 Work Ready Communities

The Governor's Office of Workforce Development today announced 19 new Certified Work Ready Communities; a designation communicating a county has the skilled workforce needed to meet business demands and drive economic growth, as well as the educational foundation to build a pipeline of workers to create ongoing success.

"I would like to congratulate these communities on reaching their goals and becoming Certified Work Ready," said Executive Director Tricia Pridemore. "The Work Ready Georgia program is currently undergoing some exciting and positive changes and we are encouraged to see many counties in the state making high school graduation rate a priority."

The new Certified Work Ready Communities are Bryan, Dade, Evans, Fannin, Gwinnett, Henry, Lee, Marion, Murray, Montgomery, Pierce, Stewart, Tattnall, Toombs, Treutlen, Webster, Wheeler, White, and Wilcox. These counties completed their Work Ready Certificate goals and successfully met at least the required minimum increase in their county's public high school graduation rate.

The new Certified Work Ready Communities achieved the following:

Bryan- 572 Work Ready Certificates earned (207% of goal); increased public high school graduation rate by 5% in the past year

Dade- 610 Work Ready Certificates earned (246% of goal); increased public high school graduation rate by 2% in the past year

Evans- 377 Work Ready Certificates earned (158% of goal); increased public high school graduation rate by 8.5% in the past year

Fannin- 534 Work Ready Certificates earned (223% of goal); increased public high school graduation rate to 82.5%

Gwinnett- 9343 Work Ready Certificates earned (340% of goal); achieved a high school graduation rate of 83.85%

Henry- 2164 Work Ready Certificates earned (175% of goal); increased public high school graduation rate by 12% in the past year

Lee- 1674 Work Ready Certificates earned (572% of goal); achieved a high school graduation rate of 82.76%

Marion- 416 Work Ready Certificates earned (347% of goal); increased public high school graduation rate by 19% in the past year

Montgomery- 320 Work Ready Certificates earned (224% of goal); increased public high school graduation rate by 5% in the past year

Murray -1398 certificates (283% of goal); increased public high school graduation rate by 4% in the past year

Pierce- 844 Work Ready Certificates earned (383% of goal); achieved a high school graduation rate of 86.43%

Stewart- 131 Work Ready Certificates earned (153% of goal); increased public high school graduation rate by 10% in the past year

Tattnall- 426 Work Ready Certificates earned (149% of goal); increased public high school graduation rate by 5% in the past year

Toombs- 1373 Work Ready Certificates earned (292% of goal); increased public high school graduation rate by 3.5% in the past year

Treutlen- 447 Work Ready Certificates earned (406% of goal); increased public high school graduation rate by 11% in the past year

Webster- 87 Work Ready Certificates earned (233% of goal); achieved public high school graduation rate above 80% both years since opening

Wheeler- 453 Work Ready Certificates earned (420% of goal); increased public high school graduation rate by 10% in the past year

White- 705 Work Ready Certificates earned (254% of goal); achieved a public high school graduation rate of 90.7%

Wilcox- 396 Work Ready Certificates earned (297% of goal); achieved a public high school graduation rate of 81.13%

To continue their work, each county will receive a \$7,000 grant. Their Work Ready Community teams will also receive a two-year membership to their local chamber of commerce. Counties that are certified receive road signs and a seal denoting the year they achieved certification.

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