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Debra M. Lyons  
Vice President  
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ACT, Inc.

# ACT Work Ready Communities County Initiative

## Who we are...

- ACT is a not-for-profit public trust
- Our mission is:

*Helping people achieve education and workplace success*

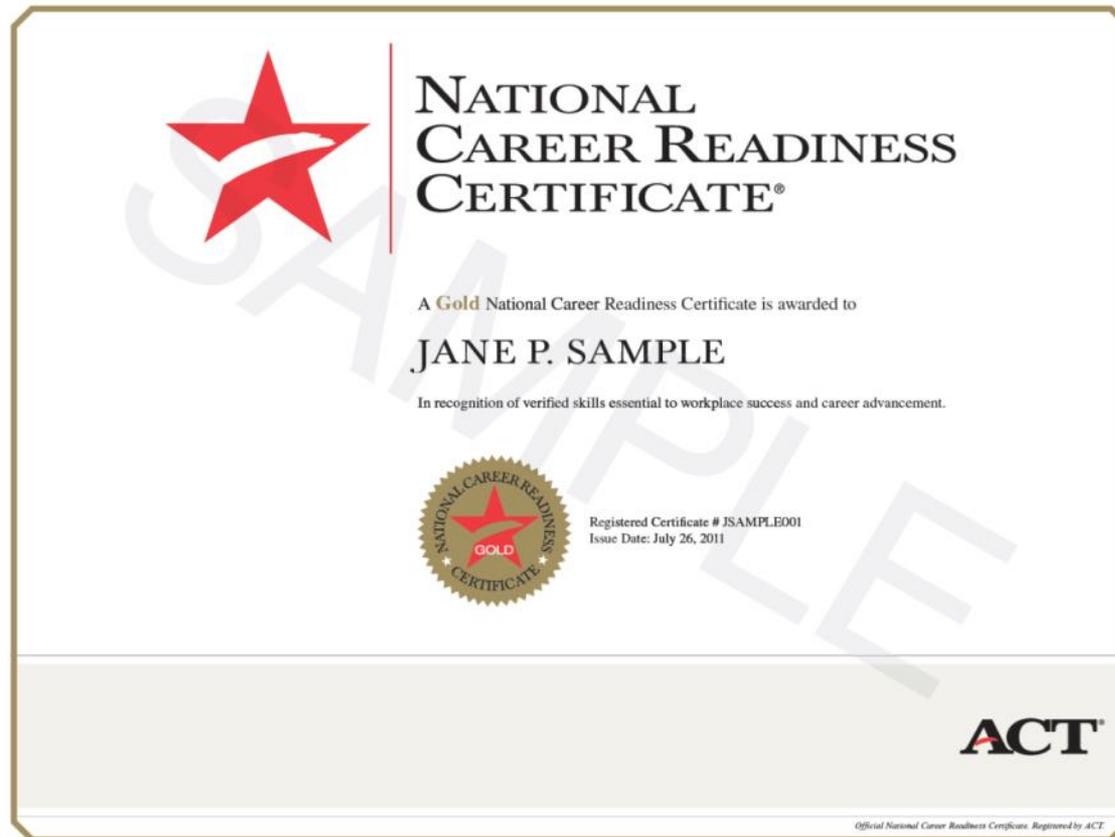
- Best known for ACT® college entrance exam
- Also provide the Work Readiness System

# ACT® Work Ready System

- *Understand* Job Skill Requirements
- *Measure* Individuals' Skills
- *Develop* Skills to Match Requirements
- *Certify* Individuals in Essential Skills



# **ACT**<sup>®</sup> National Career Readiness Certificate<sup>™</sup>



# ACT NCRC and Work Readiness



1%

Platinum  
Gold  
Silver  
Bronze



18%



48%



21%

6 and above on RI, LI and AM  
5 and above on RI, LI and AM  
4 and above on RI, LI and AM  
3 and above on RI, LI and AM

# ACT NCRC and Work Readiness



99%

Platinum  
Gold  
Silver  
Bronze



93%

6 and above on RI, LI and AM  
5 and above on RI, LI and AM  
4 and above on RI, LI and AM  
3 and above on RI, LI and AM



67%



16%

# NCRC Return on Value

- ✓ A national survey of businesses using the NCRC and the ACT Work Readiness System
- ✓ 82% of businesses are using the system as part of an organizational selection process
- ✓ Reported benefits of the system:
  - ✓ 86% confirm that its benefits justify its cost
  - ✓ 67% report a reduction in organizational turnover
  - ✓ 63% report improved employee on-the-job productivity
  - ✓ 82% state that the NCRC is important for meeting organizational goals

Industry Survey - 2012

# NCRC approved for college credit!

- American Council on Education Approved the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) for Postsecondary Academic Credit
  - **Silver** = 3 semester hours in applied critical thinking
    - Vocational Certificate Category
  - **Gold and Platinum** = 3 semester hours in applied critical thinking
    - Baccalaureate and Associate Degree Categories
- Individual Institutions Adopt the Policy
  - [www2.acenet.edu/credit/](http://www2.acenet.edu/credit/)



# Top Ten Most Competitive States

- Site Selection used ACT NCRC data as a criteria in most competitive state rankings
- All states use ACT NCRC in varying degrees
- Seven out of top ten are engaged in ACT CWRC – soon to be ten out of ten
- <http://www.siteselection.com/issues/2014/may/top-states.cfm>



# What are ACT Work Ready Communities?



## Common thread? Common goals



Individuals earning  
Emerging  
Transitioning  
Current

Employers recognizing

# Tracking progress. Recognizing success

2014 Best Practices Symposium

St. Louis, MO

October 7-8

[Learn More](#)

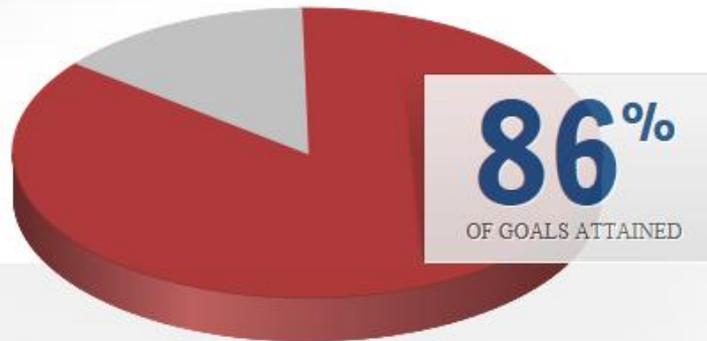
UNITED STATES

SOUTH CAROLINA

AIKEN

CHOOSE COUNTY

## AIKEN COUNTY



Showing: Jan 1, 2012 to Jun 30, 2014

Print County Data

County Web Page Guide

Goals updated only for participating counties

Workforce	Goals	Actual NCRC
Emerging	291	174
Current	29	247
Transitioning	672	1008
<b>Totals</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>1429</b>
Workforce category not identified		48
<b>Total NCRC</b>		<b>1477</b>

	GOAL	ACTUAL
<a href="#">EMPLOYERS SUPPORTING</a>	70	41

Participating counties will have two years to complete goals

# Tracking progress. Recognizing success

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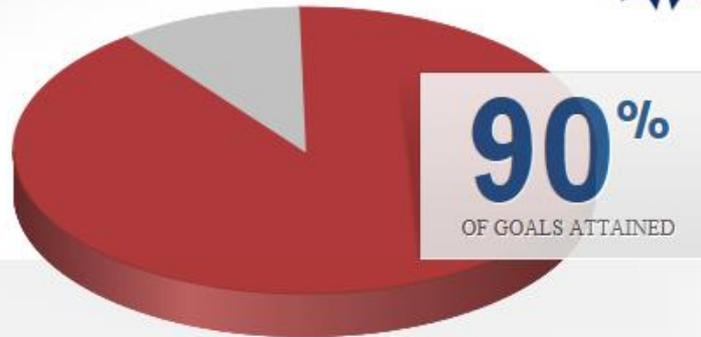
UNITED STATES

MISSOURI

JASPER

CHOOSE COUNTY

## JASPER COUNTY



Showing: Jan 1, 2012 to Jun 30, 2014

Print County Data

County Web Page Guide

Goals updated only for participating counties

Certified county actively engaged in maintaining status

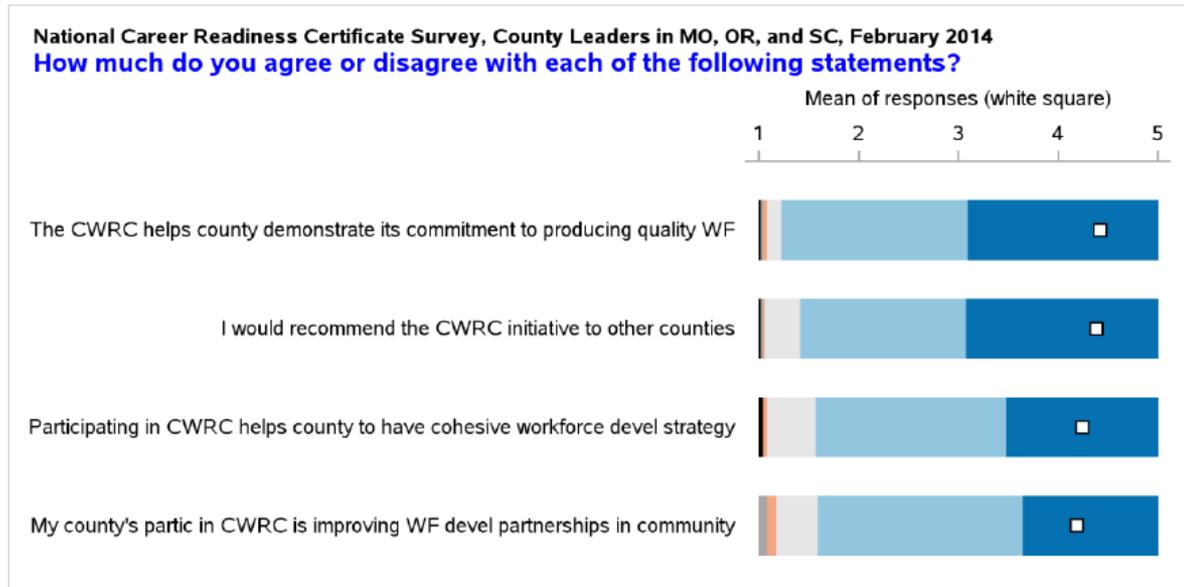
### MAINTAINING GOALS

	Goals	Actual
Job Profile	5	0
Workforce	Goals	Actual NCRC
Emerging	604	922
Current	66	506
Transitioning	531	1087
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1201</b>	<b>2515</b>
Workforce category not identified		172
<b>Total NCRC</b>		<b>2687</b>
EMPLOYERS SUPPORTING		99
NEW AND REAFFIRMING EMPLOYERS SUPPORT GOAL		82
NEW AND REAFFIRMING EMPLOYERS SUPPORT ACTUAL		18

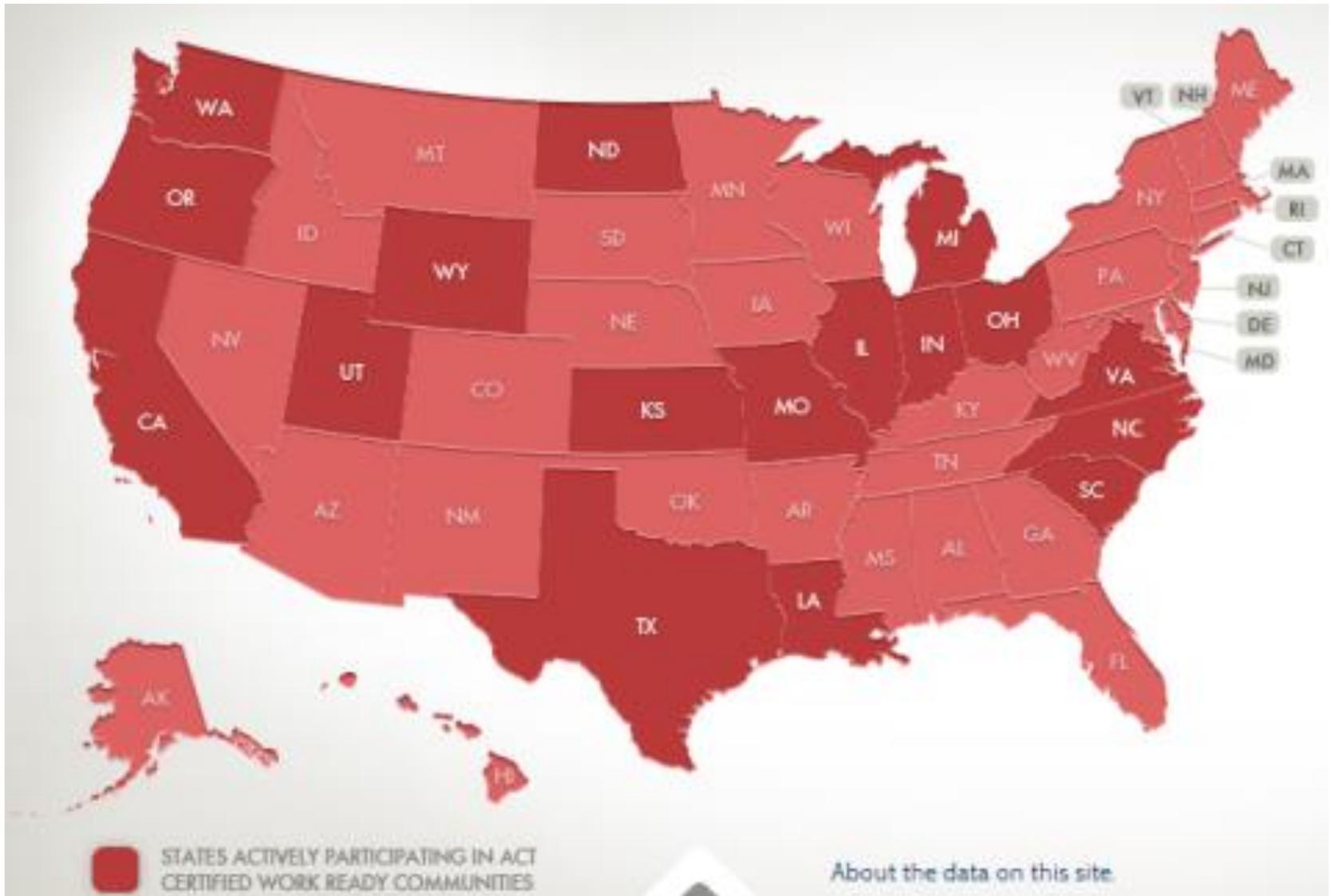
Maintaining counties have two years to complete goals from certification date

# Connectivity.....

ACT CWRC Survey  
 Results for MO, OR, and SC County Leaders, Based on Aggregate Data  
 February 2014



**Connecting workforce activities and partners together based on a common framework**



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Thank you!  
[www.workreadycommunities.org](http://www.workreadycommunities.org)