



We Are Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Michael Strange at 803-733-8299

City of Columbia Unveils New Job Training Initiative

In a press conference held today, April 29, the Eau Claire Development Corporation and TN Development Corporation announced a job training initiative geared toward assisting City of Columbia citizens who are unemployed or underemployed.

This initiative is titled "Work It Up" and will provide grants not to exceed \$3,000 for 20 individuals whose total household income is 80 percent or below the Area Median Income (AMI) as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Development Corporations have partnered with Richland School District One Adult Education and Midlands Technical College to provide Work Keys Assessments and Quick Jobs Courses. All coursework can be completed within 12 months or less.

Employers around the Midlands have expressed a need for trained employees in the following occupations: healthcare, manufacturing, construction and trades as well as creative careers. Some of the employers expressing interest thus far include Verizon, Palmetto Health, International Paper, Mars Incorporated, Michelin and Wells Fargo.

In order to qualify, applicants must reside within the city limits of Columbia zip code areas 29203 and 29204 and located in a targeted neighborhood as designated by the City of Columbia's Community Development Consolidated Plan. All applicants will be subject to criminal background checks and drug testing.

Funding for this program is made possible with the help of Mayor Steve Benjamin, Ed White with Nelson Mullins and NEC, User's Group, Inc., a non-profit 501c (3) organization that dissolved and wanted the funds to be used toward Jobs, Children, Homelessness, Education and Healthcare.

"We believe providing job training and opportunities to earn a livable wage will help families become self-sufficient and stabilize communities, thereby improving the quality of life for those citizens in the City of Columbia that need it the most," executive director of the Eau Claire Development Corporation Michael Strange said.

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