

ACT[®] Work Ready Communities in conjunction with the Copenh-Lincoln Community College District, continues to make progress toward certification as an ACT Work Ready Community.

Work Ready Communities help match employees to jobs based on verified skill levels. The ACT NCRC (National Career Ready Certification) is a portable, evidence-based credential that certifies the essential skills for workplace success. Employers look for it from job candidates, whether they come directly from high school or through postsecondary paths, because it is a valid predictor of job performance.

Adams, Copenh, Lawrence and Lincoln counties have attained certification. *We in Simpson County have attained 96% of our goals toward certification*, and we should be certified an ACT WRC by the end of the year. Franklin and Jefferson counties are at 86% and 77%, respectively.

Angela Berch, Workforce Director, and Kenny Goza, Program Coordinator, Co-Lin, have been especially helpful as we work toward our goals, and our success in meeting those goals is shown in the table below.

Criterion	Goal	Attainment	Completed
Emerging Workforce -- WorkKeys Assessment	92	129	✓
Current Workforce -- WorkKeys Assessment	55	88	✓
Transitioning Workforce -- WorkKeys Assessment	94	84	
Employers Supporting	21	34	✓

To date, 301 individuals in Simpson County have taken the ACT WorkKeys Assessment for the National Career Ready Certification, with the following results:

Bronze Level Certification: 99 [33%]
Silver Level Certification: 162 [54%]

Gold Level Certification: 33 [11%]
Platinum Level Certification: 7 [2 %]



SCDF's "Dine & Development" event focuses on employers' use of NCRC

On October 16, 2018, SCDF and Co-Lin co-sponsored "Work Ready Employees: Especially for Employers" at the Co-Lin Simpson Center.

Angela Berch, Workforce Center Director, Co-Lin Community College, discussed the ACT WorkKeys Assessment/National Career Ready Certification (NCRC) and how to use the results in personnel activities such as hiring and promoting employees, as well as matching employees' abilities to various job requirements.

The ACT NCRC is a portable, evidence-based credential that certifies the essential skills for workplace success. Employers look for it from job candidates, whether they come directly from high school or through postsecondary paths, because it is a valid predictor of job performance. A National Career Readiness Certificate is earned by completing the three WorkKeys Assessments

- Applied Math
- Workplace Documents
- Graphic Literacy

Kimberly Funchess and **Nancy McRight** provided information on Families First for Mississippi and how they deliver employer-tailored workshops to help employees and their families be successful in work and life. Examples of workshop topics include time management, organization, conflict resolution, stress management, and literacy.

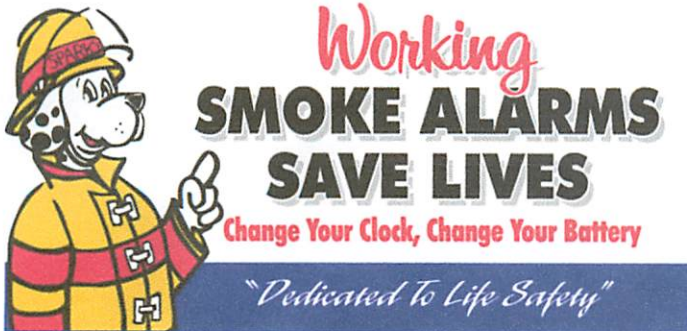
We especially thank the 34 employers in Simpson County who recognize or recommend the ACT WorkKeys NCRC.



NATIONAL
CAREER READINESS
CERTIFICATE



LINK: <https://www.workreadycommunities.org/>



Community volunteers meet to “bag batteries” in KSCB’s Fall 2018 “Keep Simpson County Safe” community service program

Twice a year during the time change – when we “spring forward” or “fall back” – reminders go out to everyone to change smoke alarm batteries. Believing that keeping Simpson County beautiful includes keeping Simpson County safe, Keep Simpson County Beautiful is sponsoring just such a project for our communities across the county. Thousands of 9volt batteries, two per household, will be distributed free to anyone needing them.

During the afternoon, on Wednesday, November 7, members of Keep Simpson County Beautiful and Keep Mendenhall Beautiful, members of Co-Lin Simpson Center’s chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, students from Mendenhall High School, SCDF staff and volunteers from the Mendenhall community met at the Mendenhall Civic Center – they bagged 7,000 9volt batteries.

At the Simpson County Fire Association meeting on November 19, KSCB will present 1,000 batteries each to the seven fire chiefs to distribute to their communities. Walt Grayson, Channel 12 News, is expected to be on hand to highlight our volunteer fire departments.

KSCB is also giving 1,000 batteries to each of our municipalities – Magee, Mendenhall, D’Lo, and Braxton – for distribution to their citizens according to their individual distribution plans.



SCDF takes active role in recent School Board Elections

In advance of the recent Simpson County School Board election, the SCDF officers and directors sent a letter to each of the candidates, stating in part:

“The relationship between education and economics is not just a matter of common sense, it is proven by research. . . . As an organization, and as individuals, we are dedicated to supporting those candidates for public office who share our vision and commitment to the continuing betterment of our community. We ask, therefore, that you please respond . . . to the following questions:

1. What are your thoughts on County School Consolidation, specifically as to a centralized high school?
2. What is your stance on community economic issues?
3. Are you pleased with the current standards of our schools?
4. If not, how would you work to improve them?
5. What are your qualifications for running for this office?”

Based on the responses from the candidates, SCDF publicly supported the following candidates: District Two: Patrice Boykin; District Three: Danny Cowart; and District Four: Stan Bulger.



The Simpson County Development Foundation is a non-profit corporation, incorporated under the laws of Mississippi.

It is not a public or governmental entity. The Foundation is funded by the membership fees of its members.



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www.simpsoncounty.biz



Legislators speak to Council of Governments on special session

The Council of Governments met in October, and our local legislators—Senator Chris Caughman and Representatives Price Wallace, Tom Weathersby, and Noah Sandford—reported on the special session of the Mississippi state legislature.



This new sign has just been installed at the Business Park in Magee.



In Memoriam

We are saddened at the lost of several of our supporters and friends during the past months, and we extend our condolences to the families of

CAROL KING
Member

MARVIN LEE
Members and Director

MABLE EVERETT
Member and Mayor of Braxton



New Members Are Joining

SCDF welcomes multiple new members in calendar year 2018

New Individual Members joining this calendar year:

Julie Breazeale	Joe McNulty
Ian Cowart	Brett Osborn
Josh Duckworth	Cemper Scott
Morgan Dunn	Price wallace
Brien Hubbard	Shannon Welch
Wes Mason	

New Business Members joining this calendar year:

Apex Physical Therapy	Real Pure Bottling
Colonial Chapel	S & W Housing
Cooperative Energy	Sta-Home Health & Hospice
Magee Rental, Inc.	Zip's Restaurant
Pollen Florist & More	

We warmly welcome these new members and thank them for their support of and participation in SCDF.

