

Henderson County closer to becoming a Work Ready Community

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Henderson County is one step closer to becoming certified as a Work Ready Community. The certification program, which was launched in August of 2011 by Governor Steve Beshear, from the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) and the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet assures employers that a local workforce has the talent and skills necessary to staff existing jobs and learn the technologies new jobs will require.

Kentucky is only the third state in the country along with Georgia and Oklahoma to participate in the Work Ready Community Certification program. To become certified, communities must gather local support and commitment and apply for the Work Ready Community designation. Counties have to meet criteria in six areas including high school graduation rate, National Career Readiness Certificate holders, demonstrated community commitment, educational attainment, soft-skills development and digital literacy.

Union County will be turning in their application in June along with McLean County submitting in September. Webster County will host Tom West, Executive Director of the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board, in June to begin discussing the certification process.

“Being a Work Ready Community will be very important to economic development in Henderson County. The certification shows not only that we have a qualified workforce but community commitment and soft skills, which is something for which all of our companies have expressed an interest.” said Betsy Wells-Jones, NWKF Coordinator, Education and Workforce Development.

Representatives from Henderson County and Northwest Kentucky Forward will be in attendance at the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board meeting in Frankfort on May 17, when it is likely that Henderson will become officially approved.

“Work Ready Status will help guarantee Henderson County is at the top of the list while assuring potential employers of our workforce readiness. HCC is proud to be a partner in this effort, supporting enhanced educational attainment, academic preparation, and soft skills readiness for our community,” said Dr. Kris Williams, President of Henderson Community College.

To learn about Work Ready Community visit <http://kwib.ky.gov/workreadycommunity.htm>

Northwest Kentucky Forward is a public-private partnership charged with creating wealth and opportunity for Henderson, McLean, Union and Webster Counties. To learn more about Northwest Kentucky Forward: www.northwestky.com