**State of South Carolina**

**Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services**

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 **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT March 19, 2015**

 **SCDPPPS AND CENTURA COLLEGE SPONSORING JOB FAIR**

**Columbia – More than 20 Columbia area employers have signed on to an April 24 Job Fair/Expungement-Pardon Workshop to assist people on probation and parole or individuals with criminal records in finding employment. The Job Fair is sponsored by the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services and Centura College.**

The Job Fair/Expungement-Pardon Workshop will be held Friday April 24th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Centura College, 7500 Two Notch Road.

A variety of employers from both the public and private sector will be eager to hire for immediate openings in a wide range of fields from construction, landscaping, food services, and manufacturing. Employers will be receiving resumes and talking about job opportunities at their places of business.

Probationers, parolees and ex-offenders or any individual with criminal challenges in their background are encouraged to attend. A job fair at the Columbia Reentry Center last year attracted more than 800 people.

“The slogan for the PPP-Centura College Job Fair is, ‘Come prepared to be interviewed,’” said Thomas Scott, director of reentry programs. “The job market is improving and whether you are hoping to find a fresh start or a new career direction, job seekers with criminal records will find a wealth of exciting opportunities at this free job fair.

“Job Fairs help local business find qualified job seekers in the community which creates opportunities for someone on probation, parole or ex-offenders who need employment in supporting themselves and their families, paying taxes and better able to stay out of trouble.” Scott added.

Centura College provides free services, resources, and tools to assist both job seekers and employers with the entire job search process, hiring and employment needs. Centura College offers associates degrees or certificate programs available online and onsite to assist job seekers including, internet access, employment counseling, and career assessments, as well as, workshops on job searching, resume writing and interviewing techniques.

**The S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services supervises more than 32,000 criminal offenders placed on probation by the courts, paroled by the state Board of Paroles and Pardons or serving other forms of community supervision. For more information, contact Peter O’Boyle at (803) 734-9267 or (803) 667-2214.**

(Please run this as a Public Service Announcement. If you would like to interview someone about this, please contact Pete O’Boyle, Public Information Director, (803) 734-9267, peter.oboyle@ppp.sc.gov.)

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