

Will, Director Stanton wanted me to thank you for your interest in the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce. Director Stanton focuses her efforts on running the agency and, unfortunately, is unavailable to accept your interview invitation.

But if you want to know what goes on every day at this agency under Director Stanton's leadership it is this: the agency is helping families make ends meet when someone loses a job due to no fault of their own, and is helping people take advantage of opportunities created by the state's robust economy by preparing them for employment and then helping them find employment.

As the state experiences this incredible economic growth, the unemployment rate is at its lowest level since December 2000, at 4.1 percent. More people are working in the state than anytime in the state's history with more than 2.2 million employed. In the first three years of Director Stanton's tenure, the workforce system helped nearly 400,000 people find jobs.

During Director Stanton's tenure with the agency, she was instrumental in leading the agency to pay off nearly a \$1 billion loan, which was incurred during the Great Recession (prior to her arriving at the agency), to the federal government early saving South Carolina taxpayers millions of dollars.

Under her leadership the agency has cut taxes for the last three years, while rebuilding the trust fund to a currently level of \$590 million to ensure the agency doesn't have to go into debt again to pay unemployment claims.

Director Stanton has steered the agency on to a new course of workforce development. Through her leadership, partnerships were developed with other agencies to create a new way of supplying the future workforce need. Our SC Talent Pipeline initiative, we have partnered with the SC Department of Education, SC Department of Commerce and SC Technical College System. This initiative:

- o Turns away from one job, one jobseeker approach
- o Develops a workforce supply chain
- o It is data-driven, regionally focused

This initiative changes the way the agency is providing the workforce businesses need today and in the future.

Director Stanton also is focusing on providing opportunities for priority populations (people with significant barriers to employment). Through partnerships she led the creation of several programs, including these:

- o Ex-offenders: Partnered with Corrections and developed the Second Chance program; 75% of the people who complete program are earning wages
- o Homeless: partnering with community homeless centers created the Back to Work program; nearly 70% of people who have completed this program are employed.
- o Veterans: SC National Guard (OPE) provided services to nearly 20,000 veterans and eligible persons in PY '15, which ended June 30, 2016

Thanks,

Bob