



HENRY MCMASTER
GOVERNOR

July 24, 2019

National Association of Workforce Agencies
Attn: NASWA Board Awards Committee
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20001

To Whom It May Concern:

I am happy to recommend the *Back to Work* initiative, developed by the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW), for a Workforce Innovation Award. South Carolina's employment is at an all-time high and in this vibrant economy, the state must diligently support businesses in their search for workers.

Back to Work demonstrates DEW's extraordinary commitment to promoting a robust, diverse, and prepared workforce. The tools and opportunities provided put citizens to work who may not have otherwise had the opportunity. It is an exemplary model of collaboration. By addressing workforce challenges and bringing together a wide spectrum of government and not-for-profits to train individuals whose previous life circumstances produced barriers to securing a job, *Back to Work* has seen exponential growth in its first five years.

It is the partnerships and contributions of programs like *Back to Work* that will create a platform for individuals to realize their potential, and the training and soft skills they receive will continue to be welcomed by businesses eager to include them in the workforce.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Henry McMaster".

Henry McMaster

HM/kq