

WorkKeys

Why is it important?

WorkKeys

- **The National Career Readiness Certificate** assesses critical skills for employability:
 - Reading for Information
 - Applied Mathematics
 - Locating Information.
- ACT researched over 16,000 occupations before developing these three WorkKeys® assessments for the NCRC.

WorkKeys

- The NCRC serves as a reliable predictor for workplace success of any applicant.
- Thousands of private and public employers now ask for or require NCRC scores as part of the application process.

WorkKeys

- **NCRC is awarded at four levels:**
 - **Platinum**
 - **Gold**
 - **Silver**
 - **Bronze.**
- Level allows employers to know an applicant has met or exceeded the necessary skills for a percentage of the 16,000 occupations.
- For example, a Gold certificate verifies that an individual has the necessary skills for 93% of occupations.

WorkKeys

- **No matter what your plans for after high school include**
 - College/University
 - Technical School
 - Apprenticeship
 - Industry Training
 - Military
- **CRC is a critical addition to your portfolio and résumé.**

WorkKeys

The choice to do well on the exam now can have an impact for future employment opportunities after your college graduation that might help you secure your first full-time position.

WorkKeys

WorkKeys gives you a chance to show that you can apply what you have learned in courses to real life situations...answering the common question-

When am I ever going to use this in life?

WorkKeys

- Having a 30 on the ACT doesn't do much when you have no idea how to operate in a normal workplace, after all.
- Employers need to know you have both.

'Work Keys' unlock job opportunities

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER



Counties across the country are riding the wave of a growing trend of certifying their communities as "Work Ready."

Nationwide, there are several state-based work-ready initiatives — to demonstrate that their counties' workforce has the skills needed by employers (See "Kentucky Counties Work Ready," County News, Dec. 15, 2014). These top-down efforts are initiated and supported by governors and state economic development officials.

But counties don't have to wait for their states to award work-ready credentials, according to ACT, a nonprofit trust, best known its college admissions exam.

Counties such as Gregg County, Texas and Sweetwater County, Wyo. have taken it upon themselves to get their communities recognized under ACT's Certified Work Ready Communities initiative.

When the program began in 2011, it was only open to states, which then got their counties involved. Now, since 2013, individual counties are able to apply on their own.

"We've got counties and regions that felt such a need to get this initiative up and running, that they didn't want to wait for their state," said Debra Lyons, ACT's vice president for community and economic development.

States or ACT can designate counties as work-ready based on the number of individuals in the local workforce who have earned ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) — and the extent to which businesses recognize, prefer or recommend the certification as a factor in hiring decisions.

Using its Work Keys testing — which includes applied math, reading for information and locating information — ACT evaluates individuals' career readiness for jobs that rely on those skills, which Lyons said ACT research has shown are required for most "middle-skilled"

jobs. In the aggregate, at the workforce level, economic developers can use credential attainment numbers as a selling point.

"It's a credential that companies consider in their location and

See **WORK KEY** page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE ▶



America's public lands counties face challenges born of beautiful vistas, constricted tax bases and dwindling federal support. See inside to read County News' special Hot Topics report on the unique issues they face. ▶ Page 7

WorkKeys

List of Employers in Pitt and surrounding counties

WorkKeys

Reference

Practice Test