

# ACT<sup>®</sup>

## SOLUTIONS for WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



# BUILD A BETTER WORKFORCE

A vibrant community relies on the ability to attract and retain a qualified workforce to support the growth of area employers. This can be challenging as jobs, and the skills needed to be successful, rapidly change in our global economy.

**ACT<sup>®</sup> WorkKeys<sup>®</sup>** arms workforce and economic developers with the resources to prepare their workforce to engage and maintain business and industry. Industry association and advocacy organizations can also use WorkKeys to develop valuable skills credentialing systems for a more productive, reliable, and profitable workforce.

## Helping displaced workers find work fast

Confronted with a struggling economy, Ohio workforce and social services agencies launched a new initiative to prepare those facing unemployment with an industry-recognized credential so their job search would be more successful. **WorkKeys Assessments** and the **ACT® WorkKeys® National Career Readiness Certificate® (NCRC®)** became essential components of the plan, and workers had access to curriculum to prepare for the assessments.



### RESULTS OF THE OHIO PROGRAM:

**80%**

placement rate for new jobs or additional training

**6%**

greater employment rate for those that earned credentials

**50¢**

per hour salary increase for selected employees



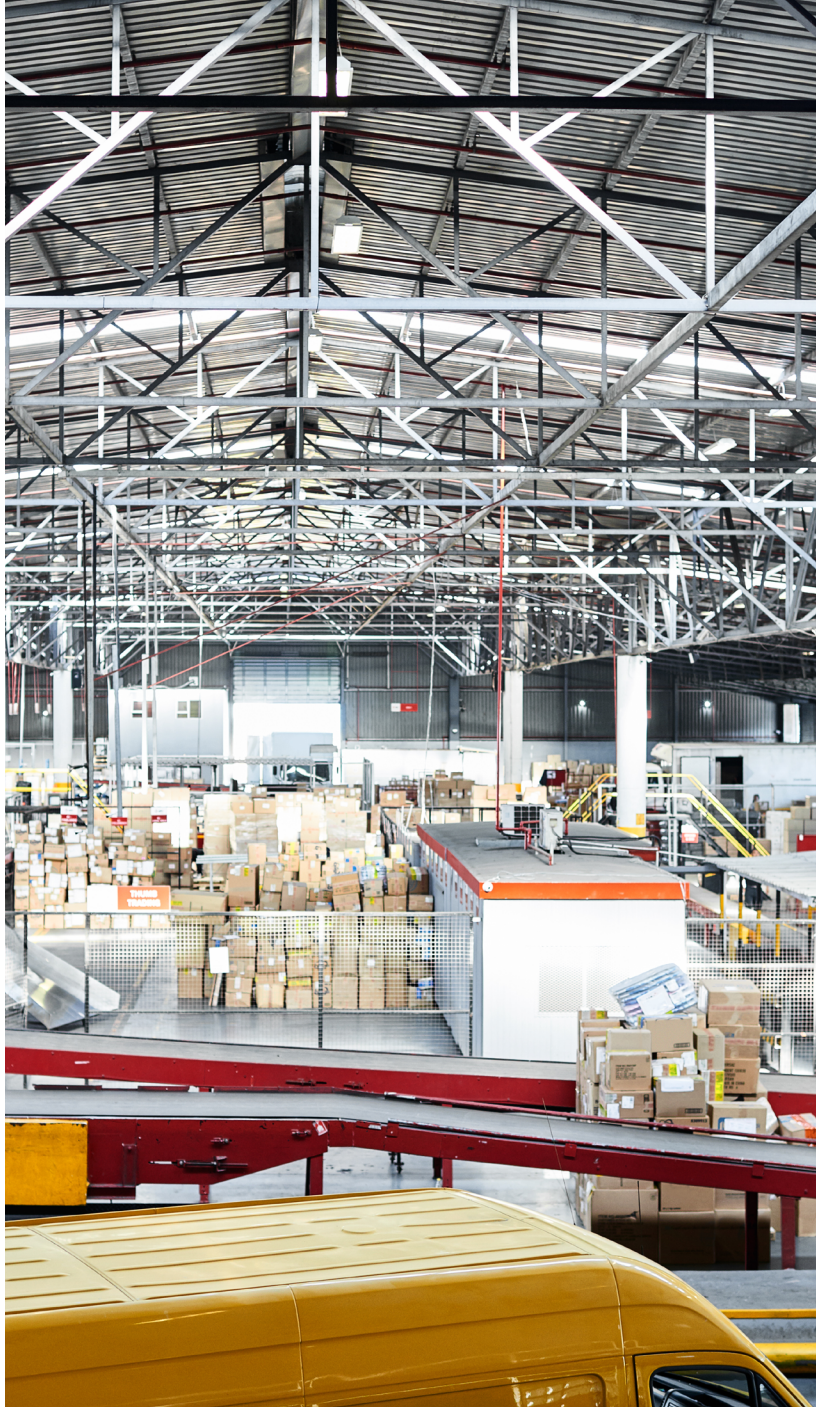
*“They need something on their resume aside from their work experience—they need a way to stand out from other applicants. Industry-recognized skills certifications are a way to do that.”*

– Cathy Metcalf, Executive Director,  
Cincinnati Labor Agency for Social Services

## Creating a talent pipeline for new jobs

To provide a pipeline of quality workers for manufacturing jobs, the Tri-County region of South Carolina uses **ACT WorkKeys products**. The priority is to ensure that potential employees have the skills needed to fill jobs with a focus on advanced manufacturing production as well as other technology-related workforce needs.

A \$20 million investment in Oconee County (part of the Tri-County region) made by Baxter Enterprises, recruited by the Oconee Economic Alliance, is bringing 90 new manufacturing jobs to the region.



*"We use ACT Career Ready 101, a part of the ACT Curriculum, to skill up our high school students at the Career and Technology Centers to better prepare them for success. Our goal is to help students achieve Silver and Gold on the ACT NCRC."*

*- Kelli Lancaster, School to Career Coordinator,  
Anderson I & II Career and Technical Center*

# WORKKEYS PRODUCTS and SERVICES



Individuals who have earned an **NCRC** have demonstrated they have the core foundational skills to be successful in any job across industries. Based on data from over 21,000 profiled jobs, the NCRC is an indicator of the qualifications and skills your workforce possess.



**WorkKeys Assessments** measure foundational skills required for success in the workplace and that can affect job performance. They are developed to solve actual workplace problems and are relevant to any occupation, at any level, and across industries. By providing these assessments for job seekers, you can show new businesses your community has the skills they need to succeed and grow.



**ACT WorkKeys Job Profiles** bring the specifics of a job into focus. By linking job tasks with ACT WorkKeys Assessments, employers can pinpoint benchmarks for hiring, recruiting, advancement, and training, allowing them to be more effective in their candidate screening and hiring.



**ACT WorkKeys Curriculum** helps individuals build the essential career-relevant skills needed for learning, personal development, and effective job performance. Including access to these courses in your schools and career education programs will give your job seekers the ability to build their skills and succeed in their careers.

## **WorkKeys and WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) Funds**

WIOA provisions include statewide and local workforce development programs that increase attainment of industry-recognized certifications, improving workforce quality while meeting employers' skill needs. The USDOL has clarified that WIOA funds can be used for the NCRC and the underlying WorkKeys solutions in order to assess participants' skills, provide aligned curriculum for necessary skill development, and attain the certification. For more information, go to [www.doleta.gov/wioa/](http://www.doleta.gov/wioa/)

To see how ACT WorkKeys can help your organization and community, go to [act.org/workkeysforworkforce](http://act.org/workkeysforworkforce)



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