

# Clark County Work Ready Community Committee

## NEWS RELEASE



**Contact: Cora Heffner, Clark County Community Education Program Director – 745-3946, [cora.heffner@clark.kyschools.us](mailto:cora.heffner@clark.kyschools.us)**

## **Gov. Beshear awards Kentucky Work Ready Communities certification to Clark County**

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 15, 2014)** – Governor Steve Beshear announced today that Clark County has been certified as a Kentucky Work Ready Community. The certification program from the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) and the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet assures employers that a local workforce has the talent and skills necessary to staff existing jobs and to master the innovative technologies new jobs will require.

“We are excited that Clark County has achieved Kentucky Work Ready Communities status and we look forward to certifying many others in the future. Work Ready status is not an easy accomplishment. Clark County leaders are to be commended for working together to achieve this goal,” said Crystal Gibson, chair of the Kentucky Work Ready Communities Review Panel and vice president of Public Affairs at Citigroup.

Winchester Mayor Ed Burtner said, “I applaud the work of all involved in achieving the high distinction of Work Ready Community Certification. It is further evidence that the Community of Winchester and Clark County is committed to doing all we can to create jobs and workers for those jobs. Our Community has worked hard to create a business friendly climate. The WRC Certification makes the statement that we are truly committed to this effort.”

Industrial Authority Director Todd Denham said, “Receiving the designation of “Work Ready Community” is testament to Winchester/Clark County’s commitment to

providing an educated and skilled workforce for new and existing industry. Our success in economic development is intricately linked to a labor pool that is knowledgeable, trainable, and eager to thrive. “

To become certified, communities must gather local support and commitment and apply for the Kentucky Work Ready Communities designation. Counties have to meet criteria in six areas including high school graduation rate, National Career Readiness Certificate holders, demonstrated community commitment, educational attainment, soft-skills development and digital literacy.

Applications for the certification were reviewed by a panel appointed by the KWIB. The panel recommended certification by the board for the counties that met the criteria. The panel will meet four times a year to review applications, which can be submitted at any time.

For more information about the Kentucky Work Ready Communities program, go to <http://workready.ky.gov>.