



## The South Carolina Employment First Initiative Announces #HireMeSC Social Media Launch at Annual Transition Conference

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2017

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**GREENVILLE**– The [South Carolina Employment First Initiative](#) is thrilled to announce the launch of its social media campaign, #HireMeSC. The #HireMeSC Campaign aims to use social media to engage young adults with disabilities in sharing their career ambitions, success, and barriers to employment in order to raise awareness about the importance of promoting employment as the first and preferred option for students with disabilities.

For young adults with disabilities who want to get involved, take a selfie or a photo with a group holding the #HireMeSC sign and/or include the #HireMeSC hashtag in your post. Upload your photo and post a few sentences about your dream job, success you've already had with employment, or the barriers you see to employment for people with disabilities with the hashtag #HireMeSC. If you work with youth with disabilities in the classroom or community, encourage them to participate. Be sure to follow the #HireMeSC accounts on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

“The unfortunate truth is that youth with disabilities are commonly met with lower expectations in schools and communities. Working-age adults with disabilities are 2-3 times less likely to be competitively employed. HireMeSC is about empowering young adults to challenge that statistic with their own success, speaking out about what they want for their own lives and advocating for communities that recognize successful careers as the aim for all people,” stated Charlie Walters, Director of Transition Programs.

The #HireMeSC Campaign and the SC Employment First Initiative are both efforts of the South Carolina Disability Employment Coalition. The Coalition is comprised of over 40 stakeholder organizations and individuals working together to eliminate systemic employment barriers for individuals with disabilities in South Carolina. For more information about the Coalition and its projects, please visit [www.scdisabilityemploymentcoalition.org](http://www.scdisabilityemploymentcoalition.org).

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*The purpose of the South Carolina Employment First Initiative is to increase competitive, integrated employment outcomes for young adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The South Carolina Employment First Initiative is accomplishing this goal through the work of the South Carolina Disability Employment Coalition and collaboration with thirteen Project Partners. The South Carolina Disability Employment Coalition is made possible by funding from the SC Developmental Disabilities Council and the Administration for Community Living at the US Department of Health and Human Services.*