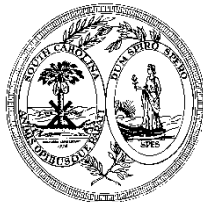


State of South Carolina  
**Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services**

**NIKKI R. HALEY**  
Governor



**JERRY B. ADGER**  
Interim Director

2221 DEVINE STREET, SUITE 600  
POST OFFICE BOX 50666  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29250  
Telephone: (803) 734-9220  
Facsimile: (803) 734-9440  
[www.dppps.sc.gov/](http://www.dppps.sc.gov/)

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

**March 4, 2015**

**SCDPPPS AND CENTURA COLLEGE SPONSORING  
PASTOR'S REGIONAL LUNCHEON**

**Columbia – More than 250 Greater Columbia area pastors have been invited to a March 12<sup>th</sup> Pastor's Regional Luncheon, sponsored by the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services and Centura College.**

The Pastor's Regional Luncheon will be held Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Centura College, 7500 Two Notch Road-Columbia, SC.

According to the SC Department of Corrections, one out of every three ex-offenders return to prison within three months of release with a majority returning to our local Greater Columbia communities. The high recidivism rate is attributed to the local disconnect between the prison system, community based re-entry programs and lack of opportunity for ex-offenders to become gainfully employed.

The SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services Columbia Reentry Program empowers and inspires individuals with a diverse criminal background to make meaningful contributions to the local communities. Centura College serves as an educational and community portal for the Greater Columbia area by offering associates degrees, certificate programs and to develop training that will prepare for a better career. SCDPPPS & Centura provide exclusive and important support services for the success of all individuals through this partnership with churches, community and local businesses while emphasizing long-term relationships

"The slogan for the PPP-Centura College Pastor's Regional Luncheon is, 'engaging visionary leaders in re-entry education,'" said Thomas Scott, director of reentry programs.

“One of the biggest factors in a person’s success on probation, parole or some form of community supervision is employment, housing and transportation.

“The Pastor’s Regional Luncheon partnership employs strategies targeted to help create a pathway to success for returning citizens by engaging the help of local clergy in the community, which creates opportunities for someone on probation, parole or for ex-offenders who need employment, housing, and transportation in supporting themselves and their families, paying taxes and better able to stay out of trouble.” Scott added.

Please kindly RSVP by contacting Patrick Bryant, by sending an email to [Patrick.Byrant@ppp.sc.gov](mailto:Patrick.Byrant@ppp.sc.gov) or calling 803.935.5094.

**The S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services supervises more than 32,000 criminal offenders placed on probation by the courts, paroled by the state Board of Pardons and Pardon or serving other forms of community supervision. For more information, contact Peter O’Boyle at (803) 734-9267 or (803) 667-2214.**

(Please run this as a Public Service Announcement. If you would like to interview someone about this, please contact Pete O’Boyle, Public Information Director, (803) 734-9267, [peter.oboyle@ppp.sc.gov](mailto:peter.oboyle@ppp.sc.gov).)

###