

May 2, 2019

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House Bill 377 Could Bring Major Changes in Testing Students

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A bill to reduce the number of state and local tests taken by North Carolina school children has received a favorable hearing from the House Education Committee. House Bill 377 would do away with end-of-grade tests in grades 3-8 and replace them with shorter "through-grade assessments" three times per year, lasting about 90 minutes each. Educators complain that it can sometimes take a student four to five-hours to complete an end-of-grade test.

The new assessments would be similar to North Carolina Check-Ins developed by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. They're currently being used by several school districts as part of a State Board of Education pilot program. "The teachers that are using these [N.C. Check-Ins] are very pleased," said Rep. Jeffrey Elmore, (R-Alexander), one of the bill's co-sponsors, said during the committee meeting. The bill would replace high school end-of-course exams with the "ACT or other nationally recognized assessment of high school achievement and college readiness." It would also eliminate N.C. Final Exams, the ACT WorkKeys for students pursuing career and technical educations and prohibit graduation projects as a condition of graduation.

"I find this an equity issue," Elmore said, referring to graduation projects. He said such projects can be costly and place poor students at a great disadvantage. "I don't think that's a healthy practice because we can't guarantee what is happening because it's not taking place during the school day," Elmore said. "To me that is an equity issue and I believe that practice should be eliminated statewide." Rep Kevin Corbin (R-Cherokee), said he supports HB 377, but is concerned about the provision prohibiting

graduation projects. Corbin said he's judged graduation projects and helped students complete them. "I've seen kids who obviously didn't have a lot who've done a lot with not much and that's been part of the learning process," Corbin said. "That's the only time a lot of these kids will ever work on a project from front to end and actually start out with a goal and accomplish that."

In addition to Elmore, Rep. Kyle Hall (R-Rockingham), John Bell (R-Greene), and Debra Conrad, (R-Forsyth), co-sponsored the bill. It will now go to the House Rules Committee. At a press conference following the House Education Committee meeting, Elmore said HB 377 is a response to widespread concerns about excessive testing. "There's cries from teachers, parents, students themselves that there's a need to reduce high-stakes testing," Elmore said. "We have to do what the Feds [Federal Government] require, that's above our pay grade, so what this bill does is streamline our testing process to make sure that we're meeting the federal requirement but reduce many tests that can be seen as unnecessary." Rep. Craig Horn (R-Union), said excessive testing is a perennial topic for parents, educators and lawmakers. "Everybody agrees we need to reduce testing," Horn said. "We've talked a lot about it, it's about time we actually did something about it." Excessive testing in North Carolina's schools has been a hot topic in recent weeks. Noted educational policy analyst Diane Ravitch was the featured speaker at an event hosted by N.C. Families for School Testing Reform (NCFSTR), Save our Schools NC and Jen Mangrum, a candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Ravitch, speaking via Skype, said Federal and state leaders have given too much weight to standardized tests.

"The appropriate use of testing is diagnostic," Ravitch said. "Tests today have no diagnostic value whatsoever, so standardized testing is being totally misused to judge everybody for accountability purposes and it's not supposed to be used that way." Teachers attending the event talked about the impact excessive testing has on students. "I teach at a school that is low-performing, and last year was my first year there, and we got our test scores and we gave them to our students, it was the worst day of my teaching career," Wake County teacher Meredith Pinckney said. "We had students standing in the hallway sobbing because they'd gotten 1s and they felt like they were inadequate."

In a statement, NCFSTR said the approach outlined in HB 377 "fails to address any other aspect of testing, such as the quality or appropriateness of the tests that are used; nor does it release children from the burden of producing scores for purposes other than to inform their own education." The group said meaningful change can only occur through thoughtful collaboration between teachers, policymakers and specialists in child development and instruction.

"Ideally, testing policy would be steered by a permanent state entity insulated from political turnover and thus able to engage in robust long-term planning. Our state needs to start now on the likely decade-long task of blending federal testing requirements with the best plan for the education and welfare of North Carolina's children. If education leaders put children first, reduced testing would come as a natural consequence of giving teachers and students all they need — and nothing more."

Source: ncpolicywatch.org

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Vision

Our vision for the eastern counties of North Carolina is a highly skilled workforce with an educational attainment level that meets the needs of the 21st Century workplace, so that local firms can compete in a technologically advanced global economy.

Mission

Our mission is to ensure that our workforce development system is customer-focused, demand-driven and accountable in preparing our current and future workforce to meet the changing needs of a highly competitive global economy.

Value Added

We add economic value to our communities by ensuring that quality education, job training, and employment opportunities are available for job/training seekers and employers alike, thereby improving the quality of life for our citizens throughout eastern North Carolina.

Key Strategies

- Create an integrated, seamless, and customer-centered workforce system.
- Engage business and community leaders in addressing workforce issues that promote strategies to improve education levels and basic workplace skills.
- Strengthen alliances with economic development to identify and address the workforce needs of current and future industries.
- Develop and implement a community awareness plan that promotes the WDB, NCWorks Career Centers, and partner services.
- Identify and implement effective employment and training strategies that result in employment opportunities for all citizens.
- Build the capacity of the Consortium, Eastern Carolina WDB, staff, and NCWorks Career Center staff and partners.

Dear Colleagues,

With well over one hundred bills focused on education currently before our Legislature, we want to bring your attention to HB377. Simply titled "Reduce Testing," this bill doesn't necessarily sound like a bad idea. Education professionals are well suited to debate the merits of the various proposals in this bill regarding academic testing, and we would ask that our legislators look to them for guidance on those options. As education, workforce, business and community professionals, our concerns lie with the elimination of ACT WorkKeys (Section 3.(b)).

Many were first introduced to the ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certification (NCRC) around ten years ago; however, for the Eastern Carolina region, many of our schools and colleges began using ACT Work Keys in 2005. Since that time, we have come to appreciate the ability of this certification not only to measure workplace readiness but also as a "foot in the door" with many local employers. In the Eastern Carolina WDB Region, we have more than 600 companies who support the NCRC credential for new employees. These companies find value in this assessment-based credential which measures and certifies essential work skills and use it to help make determinations regarding hiring and promotion. Additionally, we have had 33,724 individuals complete the NCRC.

HB377 calls for the elimination of the administration of this assessment. Currently, the NCRC is offered to CTE (Career and Technical Education) "concentrators" in their senior year through NCDPI. In the nine-county ECWDB region, 20,777 students have earned this credential since we began collecting this data in January of 2012. These students were able to utilize this credential, along with other industry credentials, to step directly into the workforce after graduation.

Providing opportunities for students to leave high-school with a credential that allows for direct placement in the industry only helps to reinforce our workforce initiative. The Governor's NC Job Ready focuses on skills and education attainment, employer leadership and local innovation as the three key elements. Not only does the NCRC offer this credential for job seekers (skill/education attainment), it also provides employers with a baseline measure of skills that can be utilized to create training. Lastly, the NCRC is required for ACT Work Ready Community status, which is a tool used by many economic developers when recruiting companies to our area.

Whether students in North Carolina would benefit from reduced testing remains to be seen, but there is no doubt that the elimination of NCDPI administered WorkKeys assessments would only hinder the opportunities for students and industry. While these assessments are available at NC Community Colleges and other local partners, the ability to earn this credential in high school allows for a quicker and smoother transition into the workforce. Removing the option from schools only passes off the cost to other agencies. With thousands of positions unfilled throughout the state, it is more important than ever to use every resource available to meet the needs of our industries and our communities.

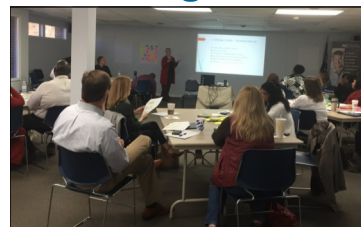
The Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board encourages our legislators to vote against the elimination of WorkKeys assessment as called for in HB377. We hope that this overview helps you to better understand the importance of this credential. Finally, we ask that our legislators consider the significance of expanding this opportunity to all high school seniors, not just those designated at CTE "concentrators," to provide greater opportunities for school-to-work transition for students throughout North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Carla Byrnes

ECWDB Chair

ECWDB Kicks Off "Taking Care of Business:" Training Sessions



In March, the ECWDB kicked off a series of "Taking Care of Business" business engagement training sessions to reenergize our business outreach strategy and orientate new Career Advisors on NCWorks business engagement.

The first session was facilitated by Erin Ananian-Gentile, ECWDB titled "Taking Care of Business: Business Engagement and Building Transformational Relationships." This training was adapted from the Business U format which outlines a new way of working with employers to create long lasting relationships that benefit both local businesses and NCWorks.

The session explored building transformational relationships, being more demand-driven, highlighting benefits of services, cultivating strong partners, communicating economic impact, and building and promoting the NCWorks brand. There was also in depth discussion about regional business engagement strategies, with emphasis upon On-the-Job Training and how to present these programs to employers. The intent of this training is to reenergize our business outreach strategy and orientate new Career Advisors on NCWorks business engagement.

The second training session in the Taking Care of Business series will be held at the ECWDB office on Wednesday, May 29th, and led by Mike Fazio, founder and CEO of Workforce 180. The focus of this workshop is Workforce Development Sales Strategies and Tactics for Engaging Employers.

Training will be delivered in a hybrid format with a Kick-Off Webinar on May 21 at 9:00, which will set the stage for what to expect during the seated training and "homework" for each attendee. The in-person workshop will be held from 9:00-4:00 on May 29th and is activity driven, with role playing and continuous audience participation. The training will conclude with a follow-up webinar approximately 30 days after the workshop to review successes and challenges. A lesson regarding relationship building for long-term success will be provided at that time.

Source: ECWDB

Lenoir Job Fair Draws More than 1,000 Job Seekers

On March 13, 2019, more than 100 businesses and agencies from all over North Carolina filled the Lenoir Community College Student Center Wednesday to tap into a potential workforce of thousands of students and older job seekers during the college's annual Job Fair.

Many job-hunters stopped at tables filling Coach Bobby Dawson Court in the Student Center and talked with representatives of everything from the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office, Down East Wood Ducks to Hatteras Yachts, Spirit Aerosystems, the City of Kinston, United State Postal Service to the Navy, just to name a few.

Jessica Starkey, a LCC student finishing her GED and planning to go to nursing

school, was sitting a table filling out applications. "I'm just looking for a good paying job," Starkey said. "I think this is a good thing that will help the community." Starkey said she has seen more potential for jobs in Kinston recently and she planned to fill out possibly 10 applications. "I think there will probably be a lot more jobs this year than last year because more businesses have been built and a lot more people are coming here," she said. Nearby Jason Trull, human relations generalist for Spirit Aerosystems in Kinston, said he had been busy since the Job Fair opened at 9 a.m. "There is a lot of interest in, of course, Spirit and the Kinston area." Trull said there were jobs available at Spirit for aircraft painters, quality

inspectors and in equipment maintenance. Spirit currently has about 600 employees and is now looking for six employees. But because of attrition and people moving on the company is always looking for qualified applicants, he said. "We've got to stay at 600," he said.



ECWDB Board member, Jason Trull, Spirit AeroSystems

ECWDB Hosts Regional Hurricane Florence Disaster Relief Employment Program Planning Session



On April 10, 2019, the Eastern Carolina WDB hosted a Hurricane Florence Planning Session for the eastern WDB. Representatives of DWS and of the workforce development boards who work together to implement the disaster relief temporary employment program for Hurricane Florence met recently at the ECWDB office in New Bern to exchange ideas, best practices and strategies to reach more participants and employers.

Theresa Lee of Intentional Excellence Consulting facilitated the session. It marked the first face-to-face meeting of front-line staff from different areas who work with the

grant, allowing attendees to network and support their peers.

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded North Carolina an \$18.5 million Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant in late September 2018. Through the grant, residents of eligible counties are employed in jobs that support either clean-up and recovery from the storm's devastation or humanitarian assistance to residents of the affected areas. Nonprofits and government agencies can employ participants in this program for up to 12 months.



Pictured to the left, staff from the Lumber River Workforce Development Board engage in a role-playing exercise during the event. As of the week of the meeting, Lumber River staff had placed over 300 dislocated workers in jobs through the grant and served over 50 employers. Their area has the lion's share of the 472 workers participating in the grant thus far.



Pictured below, Alfreda Barnett, Disaster Relief Coordinator for DWS (standing), talks with meeting attendees.

Source: ncommerce.com

LCC Transportation Day Focuses on Automotive Systems Technology Careers



High school students from Lenoir, Greene and Jones counties received hands-on training in the automotive industry at Lenoir Community College during Transportation Day, which focuses on careers in automotive systems technology.

About 100 students watched demonstrations on how to use a Pro-Cut car brake lathe to smooth rotors while they are still on a vehicle, operated a tire changing and balancing machine and aligned wheels with computer technology. They also got to look over some new vehicles and a couple of local race cars.

David Pearce, chairman of LCC's Automotive Systems Technology Program, said the demonstrations involved various skills that students can learn at the college and lead to good jobs in the automotive industry.

The course has four certificates built into the program and 15 third-party certificates that the college will train students on and award the certifications, Pearce said. "We do everything we can to put things in their hands to make them more attractive to the customers, which boils down to the shops, and there is a tremendous need for this in Kinston," Pearce said.

There are currently four jobs posted on Pearce's bulletin board for his students, he said. "We get calls, literally, weekly looking for technicians," he said. "There's a shortage of technicians that have some skills. The nice thing is all the common skills that all the shops need - tire handling, balancing, alignment and of course just general service - that's our first-year program."

The second-year courses to finish

an associate in applied science degree in Automotive Systems Technology can then be taken in the mornings giving students the opportunity to work in the afternoon and at night, he said.

"It is no longer your daddy's Buick," Pearce said. "And they have to have these skills in order to compete in the job market. The biggest challenge we've got right now is there's such a need for technicians out in the field. But once we place them part of the way in the program they are enticed away from their degrees. What the students and local shops don't understand is they are robbing those students from the higher technical training they need for the cars today."

Donald Merritt, an automotive instructor at Jones Senior High School, brought 14 of his students to Transportation Day.

"I love this program," Merritt said. "I think it is very good for the students to come and see this and to be part of it and I believe they are going to get a lot out of it."

One of Merritt's former students who graduated a few years ago will graduate from LCC's automotive system technology program this year, he said.

Merritt said the training is very important for the students. "Most people are too lazy to walk and somebody's got to fix their cars," he said. "Common sense won't get you through anymore. You've got to have the technical training to go with it."

Noah Wiggins, an LCC automotive system technology instructor, said he thought it was great to bring the high school students in to see what the college could offer. "A lot of what is missing today is a good amount of exposure," Wiggins said. "And I think exposure creates an interest a lot of times. So get them in here. Get them excited about it. They see the new technology and they take more interest in the vocation."

Wiggins, who teaches the first year courses in the automotive program and certifies the students, said it takes all the training they provide to work in

the industry today.

"The days of points and plugs have kind of gone by so today if you don't know the technology you're behind to start with," he said. Jesse Gibson, a senior at Greene Central High School, said he planned to go into the automotive field and enjoyed being at the college event.

"It's nice to learn and see what you're doing when you can get hands-on experience," Gibson said. "The newer they (vehicles) get the more you've got to be trained. That's another thing I like about this (LCC program). They can assist you and get you on the right path so you can get the right certifications."

Source: Kinston Free Press

INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Presented in partnership with the North Carolina Association of Workforce Development Boards and the NC Rural Center



Join us as we discuss the data and trends surrounding rural workforce development and learn about innovative projects taking place across the state.

July 25, 2019 | 10 am - 3 pm
NC Rural Center
4021 Cary Dr.

REGISTER AT
bit.ly/ruralworkforce

\$20 registration fee

Sponsored by:



Pamlico Community College President Dr. Jim Ross Speaks On.....



All of us at Pamlico Community College are honored that our campus has increasingly become a leading place where our community comes together. One of the most important steps we have taken in recent years was in permanently eliminating rental fees at the beautiful Delamar Center for all Pamlico County non-profit organizations.

Within the past two weeks alone, our Delamar Center has enabled great joy by hosting the Pamlico County High School Prom, the Pamlico Correctional Institute's Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, and the Pamlico Christian Academy's Easter performance. In the first week of May, we will host the Arapahoe Charter School's annual play.

On May 10, our college will have our graduation ceremonies at the Delamar Center. On May 23, our college will welcome the leaders of every non-profit in our county to attend our third annual appreciation breakfast to thank them for all they do to make our county stronger.

These are just a small sampling of the extraordinary number of vitally-important community events we are thrilled to host. The spirit of advancing and uplifting our community is in continual evidence now as our Delamar Center is experiencing record usage that has increased 300%. With each community event, our wonderful Pamlico County is made even better.

Please allow me to describe in detail a very important event to our county's economy that will be coming soon. We at PCC are very pleased that our Delamar Center will be hosting the Business Expo & Job Fair very soon! The annual event, which showcases Pamlico County's very important business sector, originally was scheduled for September, but had to be moved because of Hurricane Florence.

The Expo's new date is Tuesday, May 21, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, and the event is open to all! The Business Expo & Job Fair promotes the economy of the county by providing a venue for participating businesses to highlight products and services. The event also provides companies the opportunity to network with community leaders and other businesses.

It's going to be a great event! I'm proud that the college, our Small Business Center, and our NC Works Career Center join with the Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce and the Pamlico County Office of Economic Development to put on this important event.

We at Pamlico Community College

salute everyone who has worked diligently to reschedule this event and to bring it about so soon after the storm. As our community and region continue to recover from the hurricane and its aftermath, it's important for all of us to support our business sector and to help it thrive.

We encourage you to come out to the event. We hope to see hundreds of area residents turn out to learn more about the business offerings available here at home. It's important to shop local, when possible! We have learned that several businesses will be on hand with hiring opportunities, which will be a great opportunity for anyone looking for work or even a new career.

Our Small Business Center, led by Mindy Moore, will be there to show how it can help aspiring entrepreneurs turn their dreams into enterprises. Eric Cedars of our college's NC Works Career Center also will be present to highlight the programs available to help unemployed and underemployed people find a new job.

We predict the mood at the Expo will be upbeat and optimistic. We expect the hope and joy of the Spring season will be evident as the county continues to rebuild after Florence. The Expo is exactly the type of community event that Pamlico Community College should host and should play a critical role in developing. Please join us May 21 and learn how all of us can keep building and improving this wonderful community! Source: PCC

NCWorks Career Center Veterans' Job Fair / Career Expo

June 4, 2019

TIME

10:00-11:00am

JOB SEEKERS

→ Active Duty, Veterans,
Eligible Persons

11:00am-2:00pm

→ Open to all Job Seekers



**Get your resume
ready now and
arrive dressed to
impress!**

LOCATION

**American Legion
Burton Cowell Post-265
146 Broadhurst Road
Jacksonville, NC 28540**

Call (910) 347-2121 to schedule an appointment to review your resume and prepare for the interview

A proud partner of the
american **can** job center
network

NCWorks
career center

NC Announces Plans to Build, Launch NC Careers.org

NCCAREERS.ORG WILL OFFER ONE-STOP, LIFE-LONG CAREER RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS, WORKERS, BUSINESSES AND EDUCATORS

Thanks to a collaborative effort among various workforce development stakeholders, the State of North Carolina will build and launch a comprehensive, unified system to deliver career information and labor market data to students, workers, business leaders and educators, Governor Roy Cooper announced at a meeting of the Education Cabinet.

NCCareers.org will help students identify promising careers while assisting business leaders to find skilled workers and empowering educators to guide students towards the best career paths for the future.

While career information is currently available at NCCareers.org, the new system is expected to launch this fall.

“Everyone needs reliable information to make informed education, training and career decisions,” Governor Cooper said. “NCCareers.org will help close the career information gap, providing people with the knowledge to make smarter career choices that will help put more money in their

pockets.”

Today, North Carolina has both an information and a preparation gap regarding careers, a gap that impacts employers’ ability to find the talent they need and a worker’s ability to find rewarding employment. As the state’s economy has grown and evolved, occupations, work environments and employers’ needs have shifted significantly. However, many students and workers aren’t aware of how significantly these shifts have altered job requirements, employer expectations and the educational credentials and training required to land these jobs of the future.

NCCareers.org will provide North Carolinians a high-quality and unified career information system accessible to everyone. The system, which will include a comprehensive web portal as well as print and mobile-friendly tools, will deliver the best career information tools available, tailored to the unique contours of North Carolina and its education and workforce development programs. The system will help people explore many aspects of planning a career, from researching the wages needed to reach various

lifestyle levels; searching for the best occupations to match one’s interests, values and skills; and finding specific labor market information and training resources.

To create this one-stop shop for career data and information, many North Carolina organizations have been engaged for some time in a collaborative and strategic planning process that enters a new phase of execution with today’s announcement. The core group of partners has been organized and led to this point by leaders in the Department of Commerce’s Labor & Economic Analysis Division (LEAD), a team that provides much of the state’s labor market and economic data. Additional core partners for NCCareers.org include the North Carolina Community College System, the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) and its Vocational Rehabilitation unit, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, the University of North Carolina System, NC State Education Assistance Authority as well as the Workforce Solutions Division at the Department of Commerce.

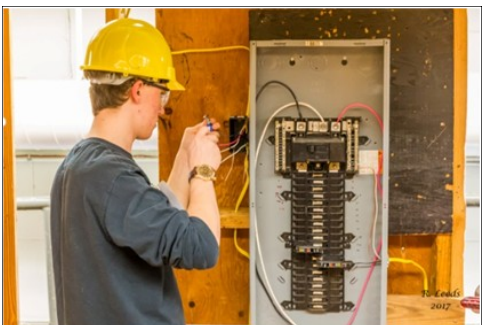
Source: NC Dept. of Commerce

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

3.5%

2018 VETERANS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE LOWEST SINCE 2000

13th Annual Trades Day Competition Takes Place at Coastal Carolina Community College



On Saturday, March 23, 2019, Onslow County Schools, Coastal Carolina Community College, Jacksonville/Onslow Chamber of Commerce, Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, and local businesses hosted the 13th annual Trades Day competition for high school students that are in vocational education classes in Onslow and Jones County High Schools.

Trades Day gives these students an opportunity to be recognized for their talents and allows them to showcase their skills. The students compete in Automotive, Construction, Drafting, Electrical, Masonry, Welding, Culinary Arts and Digital Electronics. This event brings 120 students and more than 200 parents and community leaders to the Coastal Carolina Community College campus every spring.

The local businesses, chamber of commerce and workforce development partners hosts this event in an ongoing effort to promote workforce development and growth in our community.

Photos: Ralph Leeds

13TH ANNUAL TRADES DAY



SATURDAY, MARCH 23 AT 8:00AM
COASTAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Career Paths

Are you expressive, original, independent or idealistic? Do you like acting, music, art, or the works of creative writers?

INVENTOR

JOBS

- Architect
- Industrial Designer
- Writer
- Graphic Designer
- Chef
- Web Developer
- Editor

Are you practical, mechanical, or realistic? Do you like working with your hands, tools, or machines and building things?

ACTION-TAKER

JOBS

- Welder
- Mechanic
- Police Officer
- Truck Driver
- Engineer
- Electrician
- Diesel Mechanic

Are you analytical, curious, logical, or intellectual? Do you like solving problems, experimenting, researching, formulating, or calculating?

ANALYZER

JOBS

- Teacher
- Network Engineer
- Computer Programmer
- Medical Technician
- Meteorologist
- Surveyor

Are you competitive, ambitious, adventurous, or optimistic? Do you like to lead people, sell things, or ideas?

VISIONARY

JOBS

- Banker
- Manager
- Hospitality Manager
- Recreation Leader
- Salesperson
- Lawyer
- Judge

Are you friendly, generous, helpful, or caring? Do you like helping people, communicating, or solving social problems?

MENTOR

JOBS

- Counselor
- Nurse
- Social Worker
- Teacher
- Physical Therapist
- Librarian
- Dental Hygienist

Are you orderly, structured, good at following a plan or methodical? Do you like organizing, planning, or paying attention to detail?


PLANNER

JOBS

- Accountant
- Court Clerk
- Human Resources
- Administrator
- Bank Teller
- Logistician
- Financial Planner



Eastern Carolina
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.

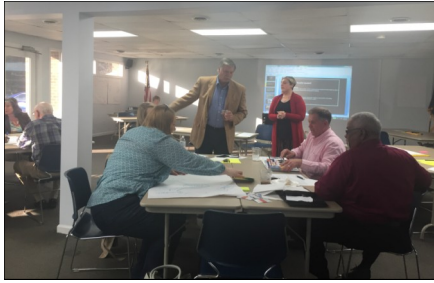


NCWorks
career center
powered by Eastern Carolina WDB

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ECWDB Hosts the First of A Series of Youth Planning Sessions to Improve Youth



On March 28, the Eastern Carolina Youth Council revisited its current vision and mission statement and revised them to provide fresh guidance for the new program year.

The new vision statement is **“The Eastern Carolina Youth Council will engage with our youth and young adults to understand and eliminate barriers to employment while they build their skills and earn industry recognized credentials. We serve and inspire young people to achieve their educational goals and pursue a career pathway of their choice.”**

The new mission statement is **“To support and enable high quality youth programs that empower and prepare today’s young adults to become tomorrow’s productive citizens.”**

Youth Council members discussed outreach tactics and identified barriers that may hinder youth from being successful such as the lack of available child care and/or transportation.

On April 16th, youth service providers and members of the ECWDB Youth Council took part in a strategic planning session to share best practices and work on strategies to improve youth services. Using the new mission and vision statements to more clearly identify our services to area youth and youth providers, participants spent the day developing innovative ways to improve services to youth.

Elizabeth Kurzer, regional planner, and ECWDB Executive Director Tammy Childers led the session, which included sharing of best practices, strengths, challenges, opportunities and needs analysis, and working together to devise an action plan.

Joining the youth planning session were two youth participants who are currently enrolled at Lenoir Community College and Carteret Community College. They shared their experiences and offered a unique perspective in serving young adults.



Challenges identified at this meeting echoed those mentioned at the March 28th meeting, most notably, childcare and transportation. The session concluded with a brainstorm of how we can improve youth services and a foundation for creating an action plan.

A follow up meeting will be scheduled to discuss progress of action plans and develop next steps.

Source: ECWDB

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

James Sprunt Community College and NCWorks Job Fair Deemed a Success



On March 27, 2019, James Sprunt Community College in partnership with the NCWorks Career Center of

Duplin County, hosted its annual job fair. The event was held at the Duplin County Events Center in the main arena, and featured employers from the Triangle to the Crystal Coast. Employers from Raleigh, Jacksonville, Wilmington, Fayetteville, Greenville and all across Eastern North Carolina were in attendance.

The job fair event was well attended by area job seekers, students, alumni, veterans, dislocated workers, and the general public.

The mobile NCWorks Career Center was also on site for attendees to print resumes, fill out applications online and more. The bus was parked outside the extension building and those services were available free of charge. This was the fourth year for the Duplin Job Fair, and its largest gathering of employers in Duplin County for job seekers.

Source: JSCC

LABOR MARKET OVERVIEW

Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board

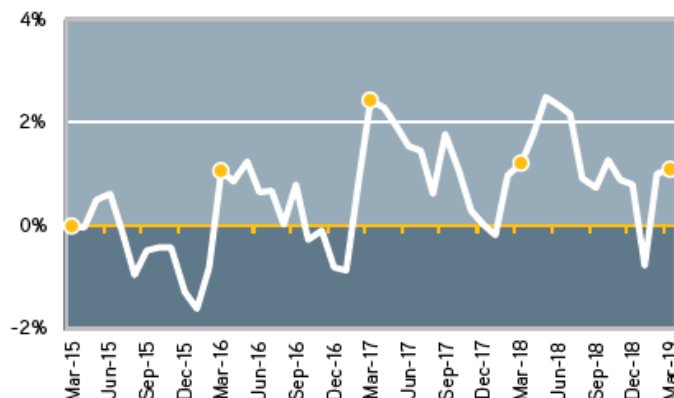
May 2019

Regional Labor Market Snapshot

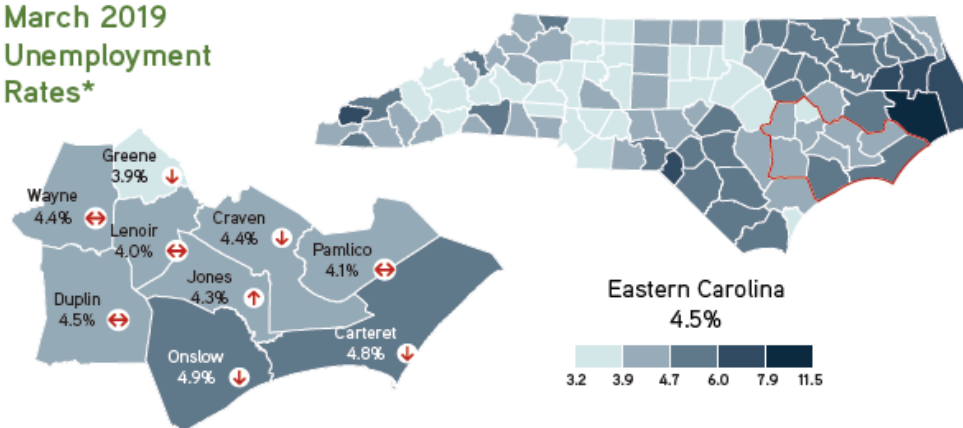
**5-Year
Percent Change
in Number
Employed***

Eastern Carolina
Region

Source: LAUS, Labor & Economic Analysis,
NC Dept. of Commerce



**March 2019
Unemployment
Rates***



**Community Investment Report Top Announced Projects
2018 Annual Data**

County	Company	Announced Jobs
Duplin	House of Raeford Farms Inc	488
Onslow	ContactUS	200
Wayne	Case Farms	44
Wayne	Case Farms, Inc.	44
Craven	McGukin & Pyle	33
Wayne	ALTA Foods	30
Onslow	Onslow Bay Boatworks	24
Onslow	Garmont	20
Wayne	SERIES Seating	20
Greene	NWL Capacitors	16

*March 2019 data are preliminary, previous month's data are revised while all other data have undergone annual revision All data produced in this publication are generated by LEAD unless otherwise stated.

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. For more information, please visit <http://www.nccommerce.com/lead/lmo>.

Trending

UNEMPLOYMENT*

March 2019

Eastern Carolina Total = 11,914

	Current	Previous
Region	4.5%	4.6%
NC	4.1%	4.2%
US	3.9%	4.1%

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT*

Eastern Carolina Total = 251,846

284 More People Working
in March than previous month

907 Fewer People Working
than same period one year ago

METRO JOB GROWTH*

Goldsboro Total = 41,400

200 More Jobs
in March than previous month

Jacksonville Total = 49,600

400 More Jobs
in March than previous month

New Bern Total = 44,500

300 More Jobs
in March than previous month

TAXABLE RETAIL SALES

Eastern Carolina Total = \$563,610,744

21.8% Higher
than same period one year ago

Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: February 2019 data most current
available at time of release.

ONLINE JOB ADS

5,690 Online Advertised Vacancies
over past 90 days

349 More Vacancies
than same period one year ago

Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online

LABOR MARKET OVERVIEW

Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board

Civilian Labor Force Estimates*

		March 2019	January 2019	January 2019	March 2018
Carteret	Labor Force	30,840	30,673	30,137	31,525
	Employed	29,345	29,087	28,364	30,209
	Unemployed	1,495	1,586	1,773	1,316
	Rate	4.8	5.6	5.9	4.2
Craven	Labor Force	41,906	41,790	41,562	41,586
	Employed	40,063	39,896	39,496	39,842
	Unemployed	1,843	1,894	2,066	1,744
	Rate	4.4	4.5	5.0	4.2
Duplin	Labor Force	24,830	25,214	24,541	25,448
	Employed	23,712	24,071	23,304	24,323
	Unemployed	1,118	1,143	1,237	1,125
	Rate	4.5	4.5	5.0	4.4
Greene	Labor Force	9,719	9,768	9,559	9,673
	Employed	9,339	9,379	9,157	9,304
	Unemployed	380	389	402	369
	Rate	3.9	4.0	4.2	3.8
Jones	Labor Force	4,431	4,468	4,396	4,388
	Employed	4,240	4,280	4,183	4,209
	Unemployed	191	188	213	179
	Rate	4.3	4.2	4.8	4.1
Lenoir	Labor Force	28,087	28,049	27,674	28,016
	Employed	26,950	26,912	26,444	26,878
	Unemployed	1,137	1,137	1,230	1,138
	Rate	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.1
Onslow	Labor Force	65,359	64,942	64,164	65,089
	Employed	62,168	61,676	60,654	62,031
	Unemployed	3,191	3,266	3,510	3,058
	Rate	4.9	5.0	5.5	4.7
Pamlico	Labor Force	5,397	5,391	5,345	5,368
	Employed	5,175	5,168	5,100	5,140
	Unemployed	222	223	245	228
	Rate	4.1	4.1	4.6	4.2
Wayne	Labor Force	53,191	53,462	53,012	53,187
	Employed	50,854	51,093	50,446	50,817
	Unemployed	2,337	2,369	2,566	2,370
	Rate	4.4	4.4	4.8	4.5

March 2019 data are preliminary, previous month's data are revised while all other data have undergone annual revision

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner."

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of COMMERCE
LABOR & ECONOMIC
ANALYSIS



NC Works Career Center Locations— *Connecting Talent to Jobs*

Carteret County

309 Commerce Avenue
Morehead City, NC 28557
(252) 726-7151

Craven County

2836 Neuse Boulevard
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 514-4828

Duplin County

192 Magnolia Extension
Kenansville, NC 28349
(910) 296-1478

Greene County

Greene County Education
Center of LCC
818 Highway 91 North
Snow Hill, NC 28580
(252) 747-5689

Jones County

Jones County Education
Center of LCC
509 Highway 58 North
Trenton, NC 28585
(252) 448-4791

Lenoir County

Lenoir Community College
231 Highway 58 South
Kinston, NC 28502
(252) 775-6021 OR
(252) 527-7320

Onslow County

461 Western Boulevard
Suite 106
Jacksonville, NC 28546
(910) 347-2121

Pamlico County

705 Main Street
Bayboro, NC 28515
(252) 745-9934

Wayne County

2006 Wayne Memorial Dr.
Goldsboro, NC 27534
(919) 731-7950



Contact your local

NCWorks Career Center

Serving Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene,
Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, and
Wayne Counties. For more info visit:

www.ecwdb.org

Join us on social media!



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Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc.

1341 South Glenburnie Road
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Phone: 252-636-6901

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon
request to individuals with disabilities.

**COMMITTED EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
EMPLOYER/PROGRAMS**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

May 2, 2019 6:00 p.m.	<i>ECWDB/Consortium Meeting ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
May 23, 2019 6:00 pm	<i>Youth Council Meeting ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
June 6, 2019, 6:00 pm	<i>NCWorks Business Services Committee ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
June 13, 2019 6:00 pm	<i>NCWorks Career Pathways Committee ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
June 27, 2019 6:00 pm	<i>Executive Committee Meeting ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
July 11, 2019 6:00 pm	<i>ECWDB/Consortium Meeting ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
August 1, 2019 6:00 pm	<i>NCWorks Business Services Committee ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
August 8, 2019 6:00 pm	<i>NCWorks Career Pathways Committee ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
August 22, 2019 6:00 pm	<i>Executive Committee Meeting ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
September 12, 2019	<i>ECWDB/Consortium Meeting ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>

ECWDB Staff:

Anita Bradley, Administrative Assistant
Tammy Childers, Executive Director
Erin Ananian-Gentile, Career Pathways Specialist
Trina Hale, Accounting Technician
Lisa Harvey, WIOA Coordinator
Robert Kehres, Assistant Director
George Kramer, Business Services Consultant
Joanne Payne, Program Assistant
Debbie Simpkins, Fiscal Monitor
Joan Kornegay, Hurricane Florence Program Specialist

Communicate with Us!



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www.ecwdb.org

**“The best way to predict your future
is to create it.” — Abraham Lincoln**

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