

APRIL 2024

Newsletter

EASTERN CAROLINA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.



What's New

2 - LETTER FROM BILL GREEN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

3 - NCWORKS HELPS ASHLEY
ENROLL IN LENOIR COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

4 - WIOA YOUTH EXCEL IN
CURRICULUM PROGRAMS AT
LENOIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

5 - CRAVEN COUNTY NCWORKS
CAREER CENTER HIGHLIGHT

6 - N.C. COMMERCE AWARDS
GRANTS TO LOCAL WORKFORCE
BOARDS FOR NEW REENTRY
COUNCILS

7 - ECWDB HELPED HOLLANDE
EARN A CERTIFICATE THROUGH
GROW WITH GOOGLE

8 - NATIONAL FENTANYL
AWARENESS DAY EVENT COMING
MAY 7TH

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Letter from Bill Green, Executive Director of ECWDB

To Board members and Elected Officials of ECWDB;

I want to express to you the gratitude I have for being given the opportunity to work for the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board. Having served as a fellow board member for 12 years, it is a privilege to work here full-time with an excellent group of co-workers and volunteers. The work we do is complex and detailed, but the mission is simple.

Our mission is to do whatever we can to promote a workforce that benefits the individuals and the business community. This is done by administering the programs provided by the Workforce

Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), as well as other funding sources.

We also foster a collective conversation with those involved in our region. We are a unique group of people connected to each other through our nine counties that we proudly consider to be the heart of Eastern North Carolina. As a lifelong resident of this region, I am proud of who we are as a people and as an organization.

I want to again recognize my predecessor, Tammy Childers, who is a dear friend to so many people. She is a very

special person that did so much for so many. We can't thank her enough. I am personally grateful to know her and wish her the best in retirement.

At the workforce board office and at the NCWorks Career Centers, there is a group of professionals who do wonderful work for the people that need them. I appreciate all that they do.

As we continue the mission, I am grateful to be a part of it and excited for the future of Eastern North Carolina.

- Bill Green



"As we continue the mission, I am grateful to be a part of it and excited for the future of Eastern North Carolina."

(Pictured from left to right:
Bill's wife, Lisa
Bill's son, Thomas
Bill Green)

NCWorks Helps Ashley Enroll in Lenoir Community College

Submitted by Jacqueline Smith, Craven County WIOA Career Advisor

Ashley, 29, has 1 small child and was pregnant with her second when she came to the NCWorks Career Center for assistance. She was unemployed and had to drop out of school in 2021 due to death in the family. While meeting with her Career Advisor, she told her she would one day like to be an RN but didn't see how she could make her goals a reality. Her advisor at the NCWorks Career Center promptly helped her apply to WIOA for assistance with ADN Nursing Program at Lenoir Community College.

Being a single parent, pregnant, and unemployed created substantial barriers to

employment that put Ashley at a disadvantage. NCWorks was able to help her overcome these barriers and enroll in the Nursing Program and start on her long-term goal to get her RN License.

Ashley met and exceeded that goal. She maintained a 4.0 GPA for CNA I Class and only missed the days that she was in the hospital having her baby. She passed the CNA I state exam and is now listed on the NC State Registry.

Ashley was not satisfied there and is currently enrolled at Lenoir Community College in the LPN course, working towards her associate degree.

NCWorks helped get her started and to overcome the initial barriers, then Ashley took charge of her own path from there and is on her way to achieving dreams she never thought could be a reality.

"I hope that sharing my story can be an inspiration for others who are in a similar position that I was."

We are very proud of Ashley and all that she has accomplished!

-Jacqueline Smith,
NCWorks Craven County
WIOA Career Advisor

"I hope that sharing my story can be an inspiration for others who are in a similar position that I was," said Ashley.

First photo: (Pictured from left to right: Jacqueline Smith, WIOA Career Advisor, and Al Searles, ECWDB Chair)

Second photo: Ashley



WIOA Youth Excel in Curriculum Programs at Lenoir Community College

Submitted by Tracey Price, Lenoir Community College Career Advisor

Students enrolled in the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program are excelling in their programs at Lenoir Community College.

Alejandro, from Albertson, and Savannah, from Goldsboro, are pursuing an associate degree in Criminal Justice and have made the President's List, an honor that takes dedication, hard work, and commitment to attain. The President's List requires students to be enrolled for a minimum of 12 semester hours, have achieved a grade point average of 4.00, and are not enrolled in any class numbered below 100.

Alejandro enrolled in WIOA Youth Program in July 2023 and completed his Adult High School Diploma at LCC in the following month. He then enrolled in the Criminal Justice degree program and has earned all A's and 16 credit hours since enrollment. He plans to continue his education at a North Carolina University and his career goal is to become an attorney specializing in Intellectual Property Law.

Savannah enrolled in WIOA Youth program in Spring of 2022, earning her High School Equivalency Diploma in March

2022. She began Criminal Justice Technology in May 2022 and has earned all A's maintaining a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) since that time. She is on track to graduate in May. While balancing her academics, she also serves as President of LCC's Student Government Association and is heavily involved in all campus activities. She has been accepted into Western Carolina University to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. Her goal is to work with North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation as a detective/investigator specializing in Human Trafficking & Crimes Against Children Division.

Andrea, from La Grange, is enrolled in Graphic Arts & Imagining Technology and has maintained a cumulative 3.5 GPA since enrolling in Spring of 2022. Edward, from Dudley, is currently enrolled in Engineering and has a 3.5 GPA. Both students made the Dean's List for Fall 2023. The Dean's List is comprised of students who are enrolled for a minimum of 12 semester hours, have achieved a grade point average from 3.25 through 3.99, are not enrolled in any class numbered below 100, and have no grade lower than a "C."

WIOA participant Michael, from Snow Hill, is pursuing an associate degree in Criminal Justice and while he was not enrolled in 12 credit hours to be considered full time, he is excelling with a 4.0 GPA after completing summer and fall semesters last year.

"Other WIOA participants who are doing well are Tyrell, Tahir, Kendall, Jamie, Anastasia, and Jitsuave," Career Advisor Deb Blondin added.

Both Price and Blondin said working with these students and helping them reach their goals is the best job a person could have. "These kids work hard, overcome challenging life situations, dealing with timelines and requirements that can be stressful, yet they keep on keeping on and we couldn't be prouder of them," Price said.

If you are between the ages of 16-24 and are interested in learning more about WIOA and to find out if you may be eligible for assistance, contact Tracey Price at 252-527-6223, ext. 718 or Deb Blondin 252-527-6223, ext. 713.



From left to right: Andrea, Alejandro, Savannah, & Michael. Not Pictured: Edward.

Craven County NCWorks Career Center Highlight

Submitted by Reeshema Walker, Craven County NCWorks Career Center Manager

NCWorks Career Center - New Bern Office	
Week Ending	March 28
CRC Visitors:	17
Staff Assisted Customers:	9
Partner Assisted Customers:	2
Special Events:	0
Total Served:	27
Average Per Day:	9 (3 day work week)



N.C. Commerce Awards Grants to Local Workforce Boards for New Reentry Councils

North Carolina Department of Commerce Press Release - April 1, 2024

Raleigh, N.C. - The North Carolina Department of Commerce has awarded grants totaling \$750,000 to three local Workforce Development Boards to support the creation of Local Reentry Councils (LRCs). These new groups will collaborate with workforce development partners, the N.C. Department of Adult Correction and others in their communities to support justice-involved people in making a successful transition to employment, which in turn promotes public safety.

“Local Reentry Councils help people exiting incarceration get back on their feet and keep our communities safer,” said Governor Roy Cooper. “As employers move to North Carolina in record numbers, they are looking for new and skilled workers while many formerly incarcerated people are eager to change their lives, get a job and join their communities. The whole-of-government approach exemplified by this collaboration between the Department of Commerce and the Department of Adult Correction will strengthen our economy, make communities safer and give people the second chance they deserve.”

Recipients of these one-time grants, each in the amount of \$250,000, include:

- Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, which will support a new LRC in Wayne County;
- Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board, which will support a new LRC in Warren County; and
- Piedmont Triad Regional Workforce Development Board, which will support a new LRC in Alamance County.

Commerce officials selected these areas after receiving recommendations from the Department of Adult Correction.

A local reentry council is an organized network of individuals and agencies that provide supervision and coordination of innovative responses to the reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals at the local level. Such a council helps bring together stakeholders who can offer assistance and resources to help justice-involved people become productive citizens. North Carolina currently has 17 local reentry councils, each covering one or more counties.

These new local councils will support Governor Roy Cooper’s recent Executive Order No. 303, which directs whole-of-government coordination to improve reentry for formerly incarcerated people. As part of the Executive Order, North Carolina is joining Reentry2030, a national initiative that aims to dramatically improve reentry success for people exiting prison and those under supervision. Like other Cabinet agencies, the N.C. Department of Commerce is part of the Joint Reentry Council, established by Governor Cooper’s executive order.

“As we celebrate Second Chance Month in April, we are proud to join with other agencies and our NCWorks partners in bringing new reentry resources to additional counties,” said N.C. Commerce Secretary Mabelle Baker Sanders. “This is in the spirit of our state’s First in Talent Plan, which emphasizes investing in the people of North Carolina and helping those with barriers to get back into the workforce, so that they can build strong careers and meet the needs of employers.”

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“One of our Reentry 2030 goals is to establish local reentry councils that serve all of North Carolina’s 100 counties, to support people leaving prison with the resources they need to be successful,” said Secretary Todd Ishee of the Department of Adult Correction. “This funding is a significant step forward in reaching that goal.”

The source of funding for these grants is the State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF), a component of the federal American Rescue Plan Act which provided \$5.4 billion to North Carolina to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address

its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

This new grant partnership complements the N.C. Commerce Department’s existing Reentry Initiative, which provides assistance to justice-involved jobseekers through NCWorks Career Centers. In addition, Commerce’s Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS) is collaborating with three local workforce boards to implement the federal Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce Development (PROWD) grant,

helping people who are transitioning out of the federal prison in Butner to gain job skills and employment after their release. DWS also manages the Federal Bonding and Work Opportunity Tax Credit programs, which serve as incentives to hire eligible people with criminal records or other barriers.

For more information, jobseekers and employers willing to provide a “second chance” should contact their local NCWorks Career Center.

-North Carolina Department of Commerce Press Release



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT of
COMMERCE

ECWDB Helped Hollande Earn a Certificate Through Grow with Google

Submitted by David Jones, ECWDB Public Information Specialist

Hollande, from Snow Hill, NC, applied for a Grow with Google scholarship in May of 2022. She told ECWDB that it was her goal to obtain a career in the field of Information Technology (IT). She was interested in the program because she believed it could help her obtain the knowledge and skills she would need to succeed in her goals. After receiving her scholarship to join the program, she promptly enrolled in the necessary

courses to make her dreams a reality. There are challenges that come with a self-paced, fully online certificate course, but Hollande was determined to succeed. She finished the program in a timely manner with great scores and obtained her IT certificate.

“After receiving the Google certificate, I was motivated to complete the Microsoft Azure Fundamentals certification as well. The Google program

really motivated me to grow, learn, and excel in the IT workforce.”

Hollande was able to land her first IT Helpdesk job shortly after completing the program and is now well on the path to accomplishing her career goals. Her motivation, initiative, and strong work ethic helped her successfully change her career and achieve her goals.

-David Jones

National Fentanyl Awareness Day Event Coming May 7th

NATIONAL FENTANYL
AWARENESS DAY

SAFE SUMMER COOKOUT EVENT

OPENING
CEREMONY
PRESENTED BY
SHERIFF ASA
BUCK AND
MAYOR JERRY
JONES

Join the Carteret County Post Overdose Response Team and Peer Recovery Center for a family friendly fentanyl awareness day event! There will be a burger and hotdog cookout, local resource tables, raffle entry, testimonies from individuals who have been saved by Narcan, and more!

TUESDAY MAY 7, 2024
4:00PM-7:00PM

**PEER RECOVERY CENTER
PARKING LOT
3900 BRIDGES STREET,
MOREHEAD CITY, NC
28557**



For more info contact
brooke.barnhill@carteretcountync.gov or
weeksb07@gmail.com



Contact your local NCWorks Career Center Today!

Carteret County

3813 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC
28557
(252) 222-6038

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

Education Center of
LCC
818 Highway 91 North
Snow Hill, NC 28580
(252) 747-3434 ext. 764

Jones County

Education Center of
LCC
509 Highway 58 North
Trenton, NC 28585
(252) 448-5021 ext. 790

Lenoir County

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

Onslow County

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

Pamlico County

5049 Highway 306 South
Room 409 Brinson
Building
Grantsboro, NC 28529
(252) 249-1851 ext. 3014

Wayne County

2128 Wayne Memorial
Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27534
(919) 731-7950



An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. (TTY) 1-800-735-2962 (Voice) 1-800-735-8262. This is funded by the Employment and Training Administration of the US Department of Labor as part of an award totaling \$5,799,096.51 with 0% financed from non-governmental sources.

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