



May, 2018

Inside this Issue:

Governor Cooper Announces NC Job Ready, Key Priorities for Workforce Development

Governor Announces \$2 Million College and Career Readiness Grant	1
Board Of Directors	2
Message from Executive Director	3
NCWorks + NC4Me Success Story	4
NCWorks Commission Accountability Goals	5
Spirit Aerosystems Invests in Lenoir County	5
Free Press Names "20 Under 40" Awards	5
Jennifer Polk Addresses High School Students	5
Lenoir Job Fair	6
Craven Works Job Fair	6
Advanced Manufacturing Symposium	7
Onslow County Trades Day Competition	8
Career & Technical Education Expo	8
Carteret CC Apprenticeship Conference & Construction Career Day	9
Labor Market Overview	10
myFutureNC Listening Session and nCIMPACT Summit	11
Mark Your Calendars	12
ECWDB Staff	12

Governor Roy Cooper laid out his priorities for workforce development, a primary focus for his administration as he seeks to ensure more North Carolinians are ready for the jobs of today and tomorrow. Cooper addressed the NCWorks Commission members to highlight his job readiness initiative, NC Job Ready. "I want North Carolinians to be better educated, healthier, and have more money in their pockets so that they can live more abundant, purposeful lives," said Gov. Cooper. "The linchpin to achieving that goal is to help people get good-paying jobs to support themselves and their families." Cooper's initiative is built on three core principles: skills and education attainment so North Carolinians are ready for the jobs of today and tomorrow, employer leadership to remain relevant to evolving industry needs, and local innovation to take great ideas and apply them statewide. "Business leaders tell me time and again that they have job openings but can't find workers with the right skills," Gov. Cooper said. "A better trained workforce can help businesses grow and give workers new opportunities." Successful workforce development is collaborative and the NCWorks Commission convenes this partnership among education, business,

government, and community leaders. "Getting North Carolina job ready means helping people get the skills they need for better-paying jobs and then connecting businesses to those workers," Gov. Cooper added. "An educated, well-trained workforce will strengthen North Carolina companies, attract new businesses, and ensure we can adapt to a changing economy." NC Job Ready priorities are focused in the following areas: **Skills and Education Attainment.** Education is the foundation to a strong workforce. As the skill requirements of jobs are increasing and rapidly changing, businesses need to find people with the right skills for the jobs they create and North Carolinians need access to training so they can be ready for those jobs. **Employer Leadership.** Employer-led job training programs have the best career outcomes. Employers know best what skills their workers need and employer involvement is key for workforce development and job readiness. Businesses that invest in developing North Carolina's workforce will benefit from well-trained employees and a more innovative workplace that better reflects its community. **Increased work-based learning opportunities.** The

governor is asking employers to partner with educators to offer more work-based learning opportunities to give students a taste of the technical skills associated with a given career, expose students to critical soft skills needed to be successful, and equip them with the tools to decide if it's the right path. That starts with employers getting involved in their local schools to increase students' career awareness and understanding of the jobs available now and in the future. Work-based learning also includes internships and apprenticeships where students experience real-world professional environments and learn new skills specific to the job they hope to pursue. North Carolina is currently one of six states selected for a project to create and expand work-based learning opportunities to connect young people with career opportunities through the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. **Local Innovation -** Communities across North Carolina are developing great local models of workforce development. North Carolina should build on those successes and replicate them in more places to continue building and expanding innovative solutions.

Source: govpress@nc.gov

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Melanie Sanders, *Caswell Center, Human Resources Manager*



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,

Recently, we had the opportunity to apply for funding to help support our local business engagement activities. In the application, we were asked to provide a brief narrative of activities, accomplishments, and issues related to work-based learning business services in the local workforce development area in the past twelve months. Dr. George Kramer, ECWDB Business Services Consultant (BSC), along with Erin Ananian-Gentile, our Career Pathways Specialist, provided a summary of the business engagement and career pathways activities that I believe is worth sharing with you.

- During PY 2016-17, the ECWDB's youth providers placed 250 youth in subsidized work experiences with local employers, education providers, and non-profit organizations. These efforts resulted in \$455, 931 (33%) of the total youth budget being expended directly on work experience wages paid to low-income youth providing them with rich work-based learning opportunities in various career pathways. Through December 31, 2017, the ECWDB had expended \$119,735 on work-based learning opportunities representing 33% of the youth funds. Through February, 131 work-based learning opportunities were provided for current WIOA participants.
- Career pathways programs: **Health Sciences** Career Pathways efforts have recorded positive measurable outcomes in both earning credentials and entering employment. **Advanced Manufacturing** Career Pathways efforts have resulted in an employer-student symposium sponsored by the ECWDB and held on April 10 at Craven CC with facility tours. **Transportation, Distribution and Logistics** Career Pathways planning is now under development. These Pathways efforts, developed with employer input, place emphasis on work-based learning, high-growth and upward mobility opportunities.
- The BSC has worked to promote college customized training programs for incumbents and new employees. The employer defines needs and the college responds with curriculum and schedule. Programs may be leveraged with other types of training. Additionally, the ECWDB is partnering with the local community colleges to promote the ApprenticeshipNC efforts that are under way in the Region.
- NCWorks Online employer job postings are being promoted to include expectations and specifics. Centers report that they call employers to discuss OJT & WBL opportunities. The BSC has researched job descriptions that can be considered when developing WBL opportunities found on the ACT Profiles website with corresponding Career Readiness Certificate information.
- ECWDB recently approved \$50,000 to develop an Incumbent Worker training program grant. The policy was submitted to DWS and approved. Pilot information to follow.
- Welding and CDL training is strong throughout the region offering many opportunities. Welding, coupled with WBL, may present opportunities for employment. Employers need better understanding of programs, along with NCWorks Online job posting system. Access to a database of program completers is beneficial to economic planners. The BSC is assisting in promoting these opportunities.
- BusinessU: Maximizing Business Engagement was introduced to ECWDB staff. The program promotes transformational relationships that emphasize economic impact and highlight benefits of service instead of features. Emphasis is on customer service approaches and relationship building. Roll-out training to NCWorks Career Centers is being developed. The ECWDB submitted a planning grant for the \$30,000 to DWS for the purpose of training and expanding the BusinessU model which was approved. The ECWDB received additional funding in the amount of \$25,000 to hire an additional BSC.
- In addition to the schools and colleges, partners such as WorkSource East Vocational Rehabilitation trade school in Goldsboro provides carpentry, certified nurse aide and welding training, among other short-term training offerings, along with work-based learning opportunities for its clients. The Agency often coordinates WBL and employment opportunities with career center staff. The ECWDB Director and Wayne County NCWorks Manager were invited to present at their EveryoneWorksNC kick-off event to promote coordination of employment services through NCWorks partnership.
- The ECWDB BSC and Career Pathways Specialist are working closely with Career Center Managers and Vet staff as they promote career awareness and pathway programs, work-based learning opportunities, and options for veterans, and youth employment along with partnership enhancement and participation in local career/ job fairs. The ECWDB Career Pathways Specialist has provided career pathways training at each of the local career centers. Additionally, this training has been adapted into a four-part webinar series by the NCWorks Training Center.
- ECWDB members, staff, & BSC are serving on planning meetings to promote CTE Month promotions, along with participating in career fairs, expos, Summer Youth Camp, and Trades Day.
- The ECWDB hosted a business services meeting for the Vision East WDBs consisting of Cape Fear, Eastern Carolina, Northeastern, Region Q, and Turning Point on March 13. Topics included: Implementing OJT, Developing Incumbent Worker Training Programs, Partnering with WDB for Pre/ Apprenticeships.
- The ECWDB hosted an Integrated Services Leadership meeting for staff, NCWorks Managers, and College service provider leadership. Engaging employers and developing future training opportunities were among the topics addressed.

While I have only provided a glimpse of the activities that the ECWDB and staff has been involved in, it is meant to reflect the efforts under way and demonstrate alignment with the Governor's JobReady NC initiative that is addressed on the first page of this newsletter. Throughout this newsletter, you will read more about some of these events and how the ECWDB and NCWorks partners are working together to demonstrate a skilled and ready workforce throughout the region.

Great work is happening in Eastern North Carolina!

Tammy Childers

Military/Civilian Transition + NCWorks + NC4ME = Career Success

Submitted by: DVOP Rich Gorton The below article is a testimonial written by Ssgt Hideshi Valle:



SSgt Hideshi Valle

I returned from a yearlong deployment in July, 2017 and decided to relocate to the Camp Lejeune area upon my return. I had no job or experience in getting into the civilian job force. For the past 15 years I have been on active duty serving in the United States Marine Corps, so occupationally I knew nothing else.

I decided to seek out the help of the NCWorks Career Center. Upon my initial visit to the Career Center, I was introduced to Gerry Cruz, a Local Veteran Employment Representative who introduced me to Rich Gorton. Rich is one of four Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPs) who work in the NCWorks Career

Center – Onslow County. Rich and I instantly created a bond. I spoke with him about my future, career goals, and aspirations. I was very honest about the fact that I didn't know how to go about pursuing them. Rich took me under his wing like a true Marine Corps leader would and I will forever be grateful. He made a recommendation to me about the North Carolina Guardian Ad Litem program. He recognized it would allow me to learn more about the court and justice system while feeding my passion for community service and helping families, especially children at risk within the community. He also made a personal referral to the program director and I started the course soon after.

Rich also introduced me to Lindsay Gress, the NCWorks Career Center Office Manager who, by the way, is nothing but amazing. On a short notice, she cleared her schedule to give me a 1hr 30 minute one-on-one class on Federal Resume Writing and how to navigate www.USAJobs.gov.

Everyone at the NCWorks Career Center immediately became like family to me. I started flooding their inboxes with resumes which I had written. Each time I asked for their professional expertise and critiques before submitting them for consideration to hiring managers. Needless to say, I did not apply to a single job without it first being blessed by the team with a thumbs up to go

ahead and submit the resume.

DVOP Rich Gorton kept me informed of events going on in the local area for veterans. Because of this I attended a NC4ME Hiring Event on Camp Lejeune. It was this event which Rich advocated for me to the Gwinnett County's Sheriff Office. After he did so, I applied, interviewed and received a "Conditional Offer for Hire" that very day. Right there, right then - on the spot!

On January 2, 2018 I journeyed onto my dream career as a Deputy Sheriff for the Gwinnett Sheriff's Office in Georgia.

I've been truly blessed since becoming a deputy sheriff. The transition to my civilian career has been amazingly successful— all thanks to the wonderful veteran staff and core services personnel at the NC Works Career Center and the NC4ME program, too.

No words can explain the level of gratitude and love I have for them all and what they have done for me. I would like to say thanks as I move on to start another chapter of my life, but a short distance away from North Carolina. I know our transitioning service members and veterans are in good hands due to the "SYNERGY" of the staff and services of the NCWorks Career Center and the NC4ME personnel in Jacksonville, NC.

Source: Onslow County NCWorks



NCWorks Commission Local Performance Accountability Goals met through March, 2018

		PY 2017 Goal (Target)	Mar-18
Outreach & Engagement	Adults Served	-	11,493
	Current % of Labor Force	-	4.4%
	TARGET Provide staff-assisted services to a percentage of the labor force that is equal to or larger than the annual unemployment rate for ECWDB area (2016)	4.5%	4.5%
	Private businesses served	-	837
	Current % of total businesses (Target = 5%)	5.0%	6.8%
	New Businesses served to date	-	373
	Percent of all Private businesses will be new (Target = 10%)	10.0%	44.6%
	Small business served to date	-	318
	% of total businesses served (Target = 25%)	25.0%	38.0%
	Skills Gap	Total number of adult participants enrolled in training	-
% of adults provided with training services (Target = 3%)		3.0%	4.1%
Youth participants served		-	347
% of Youth served in the WIOA youth program in a work-based activity (Target = 25%)		25.0%	36.9%
Process	Number of NCWorks Commission certified career pathways	2	2
	% of NCWorks Commission certified career centers	100.0%	

Spirit Aerosystems North Carolina, Inc. to Invest \$55.7 Million in Lenoir County

Lenoir County and Lenoir County Economic Development announced that Spirit AeroSystems North Carolina, Inc. will be expanding its operations in Lenoir County. The Company will invest over \$55.7 million in Kinston over the next five years.

“In 2008, Spirit announced their choice location as the NC Global TransPark in Kinston, North Carolina for an expansion. Since then Spirit has created jobs and has made considerable investment to our community and state. We are thankful for what they have accomplished and wish them continued success,” said Representative George Graham.

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from Lenoir County up to \$1,478,729. Companies receive no money up front and must meet investment performance standards to qualify for reimbursement. Local governments utilize these grants to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity.

Source: NC Commerce

Dustin Walston, LCC and Franky Howard, Jones County Manager, Recognized For Making a Difference in Their Communities

Dustin Walston, Director of Transitional and Career Studies at Lenoir Community College, and Franky J. Howard, Jones County Manager, are among the winners of the *Kinston Free Press* 20 Under 40 award. The annual award honors 20 young professionals who live and/or work in Jones, Lenoir and Greene counties that are making a difference to their communities. The Selection Committee consisted of local business leaders and past winners of the award. **Congratulations to Dustin and Franky on being selected for this prestigious award!**

Source: *Kinston Free Press*

Jennifer Polk, NCWorks Career Center Manager Addresses High School Students During Black History Month



Jennifer Polk, career center manager for the Wayne County NCWorks Career Center, talks to Eastern Wayne High School students Teosha Faison, Keziah Boyette and Will Smith during a Black History Panel in the media center of the school Thursday. Students were given time to meet with several leaders in the community about what they do and their background.

Source: Wayne County NCWorks

Employers Seek Employees at Lenoir Job Fair

Anyone looking for a job had 99 chances at finding one Wednesday, March 14, at Lenoir Community College. The college hosted its annual job fair Wednesday in the LCC gym, giving job seekers a chance to speak with representatives from 99 employers from across the region.

“We are here to educate our students, but they want a job when they leave here. This is for some students the first connection to employers. It gets them exposed to those employers, to interviewing and to the job application process,” said Dawn Kantz, co-chair of this year’s job fair. “We also open it up to the community because we know there are always people looking for a new job. There are a lot of employers here and not all of them are local so they can get exposed to employers they



might not normally.”

Employers represented at this year’s fair ranged from restaurants like The Boiler Room and Chef and the Farmer to Chick-Fil-A and McDonalds, police departments from Kinston, Raleigh, Greensboro and Durham, Lenoir County Sheriff’s Office, health departments and emergency services in Lenoir, Jones and Greene Counties, manufacturing and industrial jobs and

others.

“It’s giving me the opportunity to explore a lot of different jobs and it’s all right here,” said Monique Tebrow, a job seeker at this year’s fair. Tebrow said she learned about the job fair from a friend who works for Spirit Aerosystems, one of the employers at the fair.

Many of the employers at the job fair are repeats from previous years. Each department at the school has an advisory board that meets with local and regional businesses to help focus on future curriculum and goals, and many of those businesses participate in the job fair.

Source: Kinston News

Craven Works Job Fair Draws More Than 800 Job Seekers and 60 Employers



Upwards of 800 job seekers converged upon the New Bern Riverfront Convention center on March 20, to take part in the third annual Craven Works Opportunities for Success work fair, sponsored by the Craven 100 Alliance.

Potential employers, both returning and new, were available. Craven County Schools and the cities of New Bern and Havelock were among the employers hoping for new and motivated candidates. Smaller companies like A Dog’s Dream and Carolina Quick Lube and Car Wash were represented, alongside chains and national companies such as Bojangles, Woodmen Life, PPG Paints and BB&T Bank.

have teaching certificates. If a teacher comes in as an “entry level” teacher, he or she can work on the certificate as they teach. “Most folks who do that work out really well,” he said.

Companies including Craven Community College, NCWorks Career Center and the Division of Vocational Rehab were on hand to assist applicants with such interview strategies as appropriate attire, neatness, and resume preparation. Also available were tables between booths to serve as locations for job hunters to sit and fill out applications and forms.

Source: New Bern Sun Journal



Chris Bailey, career and technical education director with Craven County Schools, said the school system is in need of new teachers. He said that applicants don’t necessarily have to

ECWDB Sponsors Advanced Manufacturing Career Pathways Symposium

NCWorks career pathways

On April 10th, the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, in collaboration with our local community colleges, high schools and employers, hosted the Advanced Manufacturing Symposium at Craven Community College.

This career awareness event was part of the implementation phase of the NCWorks Certified Career Pathway for Advanced Manufacturing that was approved by the NCWorks Commission in November, 2017. In attendance were 115 high school students from Carteret, Craven, Jones, Lenoir and Wayne counties who attended a panel made up of local manufacturing employers John Wilson (B/S/H), Al Searles (Smithfield's) and Jerome Shepard (Veneer Tech/Atlantic Veneer). The panel also featured Elijah Mullins who is a participant in the Veneer Tech apprentice program in collaboration with Carteret Community College.

The panel relayed information regarding the characteristics they look for in potential employees, what jobs are currently available and which ones will be opening in the future. Most importantly, panel members spoke about what today's manufacturing is, how it has changed and become more technical rather than labor intensive, and what individuals may expect should they decide to pursue Advanced Manufacturing as a career.

The audience had a chance to ask questions and they were thoughtful and engaged. After the panel discussion, the students participated in group tours of the Bosch and Siemens Advanced Manufacturing Center and a pizza lunch.

The students also had a chance to attend the career and education fair which featured representatives from Carteret Community College, Coastal Carolina Community College, Craven Community College, James Sprunt Community College and Lenoir Community Colleges representatives who highlighted the programs offered in Advanced Manufacturing and engaged in conversation with the participants.

The students also got to speak with representatives from B/S/H, Carolina Technical Plastics, Chatsworth, Mt. Olive Pickles and Veneer Tech. Jessica Shimer, Career Development Coordinator for Lenoir County Public Schools stated, "It was important to give the students one-on-one time to talk individually with the business and education representatives." She also said that the students were interested in internship opportunities that were discussed.

We would like to thank all who participated in this event. We would also like to extend a big thank you to Jim Millard, Ricky Meadows, Sharon Tew and Cindy Russo at Craven Community College for ensuring this event was a success.



Source: ECWDB

Onslow County Hosts 12th Annual Trades Day Competition

On Saturday, March 17, 2018, the Jacksonville•Onslow Chamber of Commerce partnered with businesses in the community, among them were Onslow County Schools, Coastal Carolina Community College, the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, and the Home Builders Association to host the 12th 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 competed in Automotive, Construction, Drafting, Electrical, Masonry, Welding, Culinary Arts and Digital Electronics. This event brings over 120 students and more than 200 parents and community leaders to the Coastal Carolina Community College campus every spring.

The Jacksonville•Onslow Chamber of Commerce and workforce partners hosts this event in an ongoing effort to promote workforce development and growth in our community.

Source: ECWDB



Students and Industry Come Together at Craven County Schools Career & Technical Education Expo



On Tuesday, February 7, 2018 eighth grade students from across Craven County participated in the Career and Technical Education Expo held at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center. The Expo was the first of what the school system hopes will be an annual opportunity for students to better understand the many employment opportunities available in the county. Sponsored by Craven County Schools Career and Technical Education (CTE), Craven Community College and Craven

County Economic Development, the event featured representatives ranging from culinary and marketing services to health sciences, software design and emergency first responders.

Chris Bailey, career and technical education director for Craven County Schools, said the event is a boon for both students and area businesses. “A lot of times in our area you hear workers saying there aren’t enough jobs and employers saying they can’t find workers, so this is a way to expose students at a young age to the different businesses and give them a sense of the career pathways right here in Craven County,” said Bailey. “This is about building that bridge so students see when they graduate, this is where they could be in four to six years.”

“The main importance of this event is raising awareness about the

job opportunities available in Craven County,” said Ricky Meadows, executive director of career programs at Craven Community College. “This allows students to see how their education choices can transition into job opportunities.”

Laurel Butler, CCC student recruitment coordinator, said she hopes the Career and Technical Education Expo will be an annual event. “This is about exposing eighth grade students to the opportunities that are out there,” said Butler. “They’re going to be signing up for high school classes, so this lets them see they can take business classes, engineering classes, and then it shows them what they can do with that in the future. This is absolutely something we want to keep going.”

Source: New Bern Sun Journal

Carteret Community College Hosts Keys to a Successful Apprenticeship

On February 16th, Carteret Community College in partnership with Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) coordinated the event “Keys to a Successful Apprenticeship”. This one-day event began with a welcome from CCC President Dr. Houser and featured panel discussions on the four main components of a successful apprenticeship: initiate, plan, execute, maintain. Panelists included Jerome Shepard (Veneer Tech), Betsy DeCampo (Carteret Community College), Elijah Mullins (apprentice at Veneer Tech) and his mother, Josie Mullins. Kimberly Propts, Apprenticeship Coordinator for CVCC, lead the event and individuals from business and education from South Carolina and Catawba Valley gave input regarding their own experiences with apprenticeship. The audience was comprised of education and workforce



professionals and employers. One highlight of the event was hearing from Elijah about the wonderful

opportunity he has found with the apprenticeship program which is made possible by the strong partnership between Carteret Community College and Veneer Tech. His mother, Josie, also lauded the program and how it is great for those individuals who aren't necessarily four-year university bound.

Benefits of the apprenticeship program for individuals are: no college debt, nationally recognized journeyman's certificate and a strong foundation of training in a field. Benefits for employers include building a pipeline of skilled workers, gaining employees with customized skills and retention of workers. This was a wonderful event to get people interested and involved with creating more apprenticeships in the region.

Source: ECWDB

Carteret Community College Hosts Construction Career Day

Carteret Community College, in collaboration with curriculum, continuing education, Carteret County Public Schools and local business and industry representatives, hosted a Construction Career Day for local high schoolers on April 12th in recognition of Construction Awareness Week (April 9-13).

Around 80 high school and Basic Adult Education students attended this event which highlighted construction careers. Students rotated through six sessions including welding, boat manufacturing, HVAC, building maintenance, masonry and heavy equipment operation. Tim Manning, from Manning Masonry, educated students on the bricklaying process and emphasized the need for more individuals to go into the masonry trade.

Mr. Manning spoke about the

different pathways one could choose in masonry including information technology. He relayed the story of one of his employees who developed an app for the company that can be accessed from a smartphone which shows what jobs are currently being worked on, the blueprints for each job, and regular status updates.

Thomas Simpson, of Simpson Construction, also highlighted the need for workers in the construction field. He said there just isn't anyone in Carteret County interested in pursuing this career field. He, along with Manning, were not shy about the fact that they were there to recruit a future workforce. The tour also included trying out the welding simulator and an in-depth, hands on experience in the North Carolina Marine Training and Education Center where students were able to try their hands at boat manufacturing.

Students were treated to a barbeque lunch and t-shirts provided by business and industry sponsors and finished out their day at a construction site where they were given a safety checklist to complete.



Source: CCC

LABOR MARKET OVERVIEW

Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board

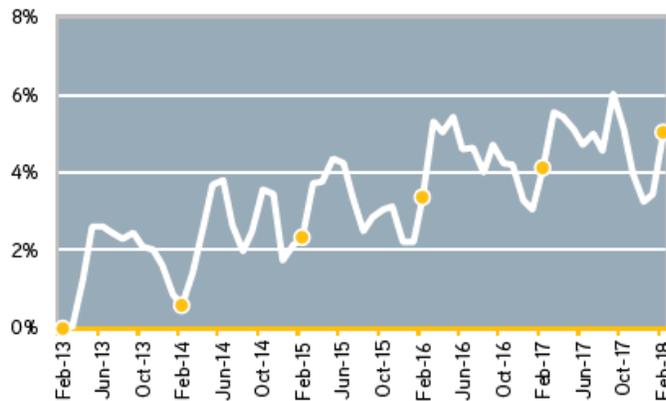
April 2018

Regional Labor Market Snapshot

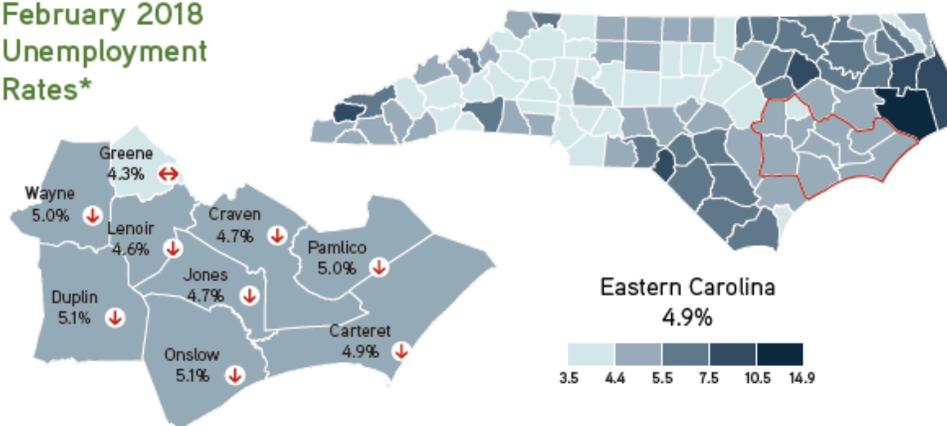
5-Year Percent Change in Number Employed*

Eastern Carolina Region

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



February 2018 Unemployment Rates*



Employment & Wages by Supersector 3rd Quarter 2017

	Establishments	Avg. Employment	Avg. Weekly Wage
Natural Resources & Mining	490	5,690	\$610.22
Construction	1,284	8,940	\$835.78
Manufacturing	408	25,419	\$779.01
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	3,228	43,239	\$592.22
Information	153	1,308	\$801.44
Financial Activities	1,232	6,438	\$853.36
Professional & Business Services	1,819	18,198	\$745.68
Education & Health Services	1,705	47,518	\$761.76
Leisure & Hospitality Services	1,437	26,852	\$303.51
Other Services	1,140	4,952	\$483.30
Public Administration	238	20,950	\$936.60

*February 2018 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*

February 2018

Eastern Carolina Total = 13,019

	Current	Previous
Region	4.9%	5.0%
NC	4.6%	4.7%
US	4.4%	4.5%

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT*

Eastern Carolina Total = 252,505

3,900 More People Working in February than previous month

2,231 More People Working than same period one year ago

METRO JOB GROWTH*

Goldsboro Total = 41,400

100 More Jobs in February than previous month

Jacksonville Total = 49,500

800 More Jobs in February than previous month

New Bern Total = 44,300

300 More Jobs in February than previous month

TAXABLE RETAIL SALES

Eastern Carolina Total = \$600,232,172

1.3% Higher

than same period one year ago

Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: February 2018 data most current available at time of release.

ONLINE JOB ADS

8,122 Online Advertised Vacancies over past 90 days

350 More Vacancies than same period one year ago

Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online

myFutureNC Listening Session Planned For May 16, Jacksonville

You are invited to attend a listening session to be held on May 16 at the City of Jacksonville office beginning at 2:30 to discuss the Military family perspective as it relates to education. This event is being hosted by the myFutureNC, a statewide education commission focusing on educational attainment for all North Carolinians. **myFutureNC Commission** is holding a series of nine listening sessions throughout the state. The first session was held at the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering in Greensboro on February 28, 2018. The listening sessions are designed to hear from communities about what they perceive as their region's economic strengths and identify the educational opportunities that are most needed to capitalize on those strengths.

Working in partnership with the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation, the University of North Carolina School of Government and EducationNC, the listening sessions will generate public ideas to complement the work of the myFutureNC Commission and provide recommendations to help guide the process. In addition to this event at the Joint School, future listening sessions will be held in Lenoir, Raleigh, Elizabeth City, Pinehurst, Jacksonville and Kannapolis with the final session in July in the Qualla Boundary. Participants in the listening session will include local education, business and political leaders, as well as current students and their parents.

The goal of the myFutureNC Commission is to create a multi-year education plan, from early childhood through postsecondary education, which recommends clear attainment goals, identifies key benchmarks and proposes promising reforms to guide the future of education in North Carolina. In addition to the nine statewide listening sessions, the myFutureNC Commission will meet quarterly throughout the year.

The effort is led by a team of co-chairs: Dale Jenkins, CEO of Medical Mutual Holdings; Andrea Smith, Chief Administrative Officer of Bank of America; and Margaret Spellings, President of the University of North Carolina system. The Commission's work is underwritten by grants from the John M. Belk Endowment, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Goodnight Education Foundation.

Source: ECWDB

Winning Strategies for Expanding N.C.'s Tightening Labor Market Planned for May 16, RTP

UNC | SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
nclIMPACT

Winning Strategies for Expanding NC's Tightening Labor Market

May 16, 2018 | RTI International
Research Triangle Park

Sponsored by: **workforce development boards** | **NORTH CAROLINA Department of Commerce**

Time: 9:30-4:00

Our state's labor market is growing increasingly tight. North Carolina employers are eager to expand the pool of available and qualified potential employees, and workforce development agencies are seeking creative ways to bring more people into the workforce and assist them in efficiently acquiring skills needed.

nclIMPACT, in partnership with the N.C. Association of Workforce Development Boards and the N.C. Department of Commerce, is providing a unique opportunity for stakeholders of our state's workforce to convene and explore strategies to attract and train the talent employers need.

This one-day summit will offer new tools and strategies to aid employers and workforce development agencies in rural, suburban, and urban communities across the state as they face a changing labor market. The summit will begin at 9:30 and conclude at 4:00.

Primary Audience: Leaders of workforce development boards, community colleges, employers, chambers of commerce, state and local government officials, and policy organizations.

Register at: Deadline for Registration is May 9. There is a fee of \$25.00 that covers meals and breaks. <https://www.sog.unc.edu/>

NC Works Career Center Locations

Carteret County

NCWorks Career Center
309 Commerce Avenue
Morehead City, NC 28557
Phone: (252) 726-7151

Greene County

NCWorks Career Services
818 Highway 91 North
Snow Hill, NC 28580
Phone: (252) 747-3434 Ext. 764

Onslow County

NCWorks Career Center
461 Western Boulevard
Jacksonville, NC 28546
Phone: (910) 347-2121

Craven County

NCWorks Career Center
2836 Neuse Boulevard
New Bern, NC 28562
Phone: (252) 514-4828

Jones County

NCWorks Career Services
509 Highway 58 North
Trenton, NC 28585
Phone: (252) 448-5021 Ext. 790

Pamlico County

NCWorks Career Services
P. O. Box 185
Grantsboro, NC 28529
Phone: (252) 745-9934

Duplin County

NCWorks Career Center
192 Magnolia Extension
Kenansville, NC 28349
Phone: (910) 296-1478

Lenoir County

NCWorks Career Center
231 Highway 58 South
Kinston, NC 28502
Phone: (252) 527-6223 Ext. 134

Wayne County

NCWorks Career Center
2006 Wayne Memorial Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27534
Phone: (919) 731-7950

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

May 3, 2018 6:00 pm	<i>ECWDB/Consortium Meeting</i> <i>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
May 24, 2018 6:00 pm	<i>Youth Council Meeting</i> <i>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
June 7, 2018 6:00 pm	<i>NCWorks Business Services Committee</i> <i>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
June 14, 2018 6:00 pm	<i>NCWorks Career Pathways Committee</i> <i>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
June 21, 2018, 6:00 pm	<i>Executive Committee Meeting</i> <i>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
July 12, 2018 6:00 pm	<i>ECWDB/Consortium Meeting</i> <i>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
August 2, 2018 6:00 pm	<i>NCWorks Business Services Committee</i> <i>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
August 9, 2018 6:00 pm	<i>NCWorks Career Pathways Committee</i> <i>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</i>
August 23, 2018 6:00 pm	<i>Executive Committee Meeting</i> <i>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
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Debbie Simpkins, Fiscal Monitor

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Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. (TTY) 1-800-735-2962 (Voice) 1-800-735-8262