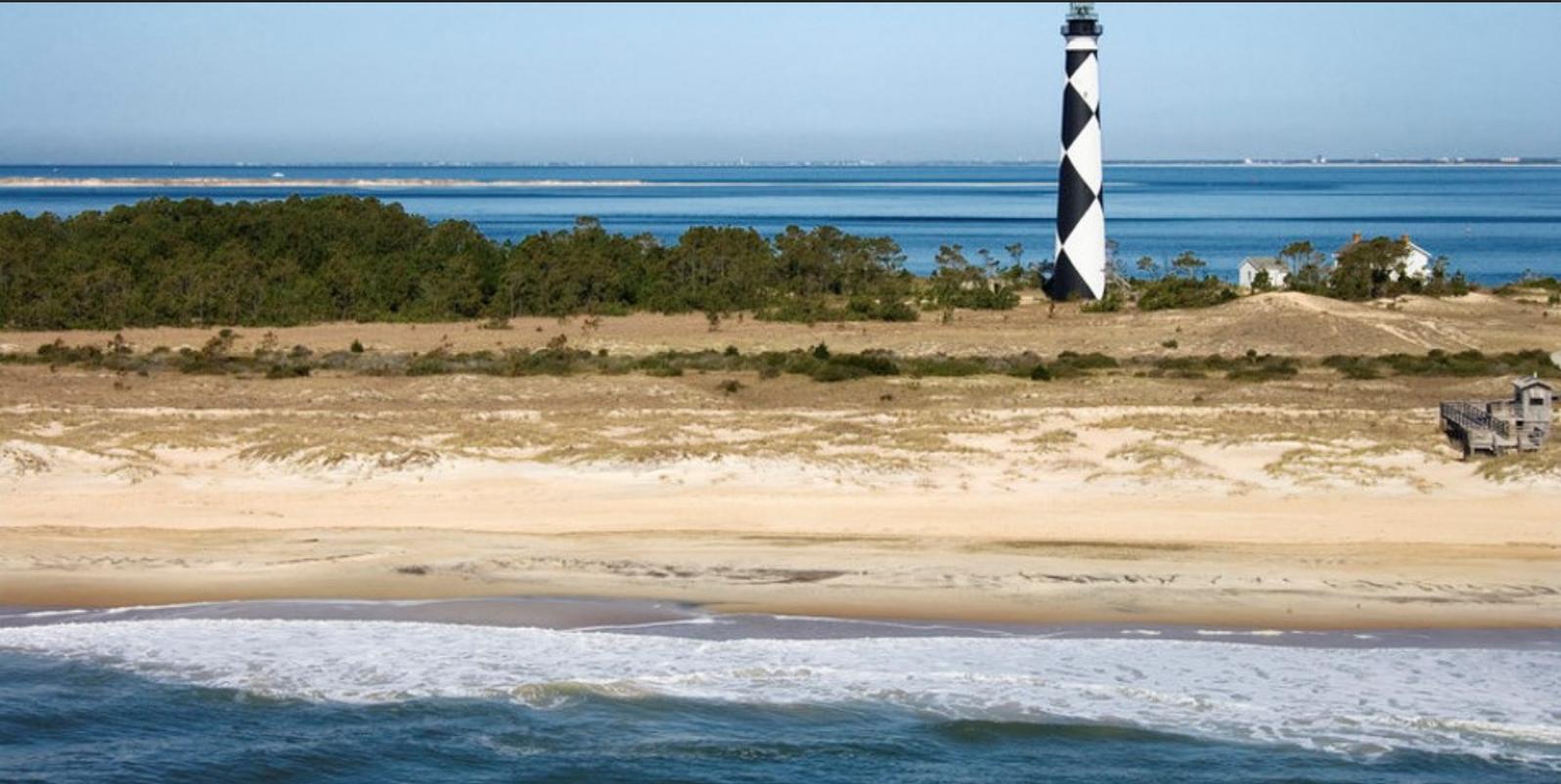


FEBRUARY 2021

NEWSLETTER

The Monthly Newsletter of Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc.



Investing into the Future of our Youth

The February edition of our newsletter features updates and success stories from the NCWorks NextGen Youth Program. There are so many exciting things happening with our youth program service providers that we want to bring attention to. Additionally, there are some significant changes to who our youth providers will be moving forward and how they will be implementing the NCWorks NextGen Youth Program in their respective counties.

Investing in the future of our youth is critical as our economy rebounds from the pandemic. As the pandemic fades and things return to some semblance of normal, employment opportunities will rise and it is our responsibility to ensure that the youth in our region are prepared to enter the workforce. The NextGen Youth Program providers invest time and resources into our youth so that they can have a successful future.

Table of Contents

- 1 | Board of Directors and Consortium
- 2 | ECWDB Staff and Youth Council
- 3 | NextGen Youth Service Providers
- 4-6 | Youth Program Success Stories
- 7 | THWS Partnership Announcement
- 8-9 | Strategies to Attract and Train Young Adults
- 10 | Adult Success Story
- 11 | Labor market Overview
- 12 | Upcoming Job Fair

Board of Directors and Consortium

ECWDB is governed by a twenty-eight member Board of Directors in partnership with the local elected officials. The members of the Board of Directors are:

Officers

Al Searles - Chair

Jason Trull - Vice-Chair

John Wilson - Secretary Treasurer

Carteret County

Bob Cavanaugh, Carteret County

Commissioner

Mike Kraszeski, Atlantic Veneer, President

Cindy Holman, Carteret County

Government, Consolidated Human Services

Director

Trapas Pratt, MechWorks Mechanical

Contractors, Inc., Senior Vice President

Craven County

John Wilson, BSH Home Appliances

Corporation, Human Resources Manager

Anthony Cruz, International Machinist &

Aerospace Workers Union, Labor

Representative

Bill Green, Truist Bank, Vice President of

Business Services

Duplin County

Kennedy Thompson, Duplin County

Commissioner

James Wolfe, Economic Development

Partnership of NC, Southeast Existing

Industry Expansions Manager

Al Searles, Smithfield, Sr. Director,

Transportation & Logistics

Brenda Upchurch, Pacom Manufacturing,

Human Resources Manager

Joe Wood, United States Cold Storage,

General Manager

Greene County

Jerry Jones, Greene County Commissioner

Angela Bates, Greene Lamp, Inc., Executive

Director

Judy Darden, Darden Bookkeeping, Owner

Rick Davis, Tide Tamer

Jones County

Mike Haddock, Jones County Commissioner

Frank Emory, Emory Construction, Owner

David Hill, DP Hill Manufacturing, President

Dr. Norma Sermon-Boyd, Jones County

Partnership for Children, Executive Director

Lenoir County

Roland Best, Lenoir County Commissioner

Jason Trull, Spirit AeroSystems, Human

Resources Manager

Dr. Rusty Hunt, Lenoir Community College,

President

Bruce Parson, Blind Shop, Owner

Onslow County

Mark Price, Chief Elected Official

Shannon Vitak, NC Dept. of Health and

Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation

Manager

Veronica Perez, Concentrix, Site Director

Karl Zurl, NC Department of Commerce,

Southeast Division of Workforce Solutions,

Regional Operations Director

Pamlico County

Candy Bohmert, Pamlico County

Commissioner

Carla Byrnes, B & B Yacht Designs, Co-

Owner

Dr. Jim Ross, Pamlico Community College,

President

Lisa Jackson, Superintendent

Pamlico County Schools

Wayne County

Charles Brogden, Franklin Baking Company,

LLC, Director of Human Resources

Melanie Sanders, Caswell Development

Center, Human Resources Manager

Vision

Our Vision for Eastern North Carolina is a qualified workforce with an educational attainment level that meets the needs of local firms so they can compete in today's marketplace.

Mission

Our mission is to develop the workforce through a collaborative, customer-focused approach that facilitates partnerships between job seekers, workers, employers, and educators, aligning workforce requirements to economic needs.

Value

We add economic value to our community by ensuring that our public workforce system is responsive in meeting the education and training needs of our job seekers and employers alike, thereby leading to a better quality of life and ensuring employers have access to the skilled workforce they need, resulting in a thriving economy.

Key Strategies

- Certify an integrated, seamless, and customer-centered workforce development system.
- Engage business and community leaders in addressing workforce issues and promote strategies to improve education levels and essential workplace skills.
- Implement a community awareness plan that promotes education, life-long learning, and the workforce development services that are available for both job seekers and employers.
- Identify and implement effective career pathways strategies that result in employment opportunities for all citizens.
- Establish an accountability system that builds the capacity of the Eastern Carolina WDB, staff, NCWorks partners, and service providers in addressing regional workforce needs.
- Strengthen alliances with economic development to identify and address workforce needs of current and future industries.

ECWDB Staff

The ECWDB's role is to ensure that the local workforce development system is business-driven and responsive to meeting the employment and training needs of both job seekers and employers. The members of the ECWDB staff are:



Tammy Childers,
Executive Director



Lisa Harvey,
Program Coordinator



Trina Hale,
Accounting Technician



Debbie Simpkins,
Fiscal Monitor



George Kramer,
Business Services
Representative



Erin Ananian-Gentile,
Strategic Initiatives
Coordinator



Joanne Payne,
Administrative
Assistant



Phillip Prescott,
Business Services
Representative



David Jones,
Public Information
Specialist

Youth Council

In coordination with ECWDB and our Board of Directors, the Youth Council works to support and enable the high-quality youth programs that empower today's young adults to become tomorrow's productive citizens. The Youth Council engages with the youth to understand and eliminate barriers to employment while they build their skills and earn industry recognized credentials. The members of the Youth Council are:

**Anthony Cruz, Labor
Representative, International
Machinist & Aerospace Workers
Union**

**Frank Emory, Chair, Emory
Construction, Owner**

**Angela Bates, Greene Lamp, Inc.,
Executive Director**

**Dr. Norma Sermon-Boyd, Jones
County Partnership for
Children, Executive Director**

**Melanie Sanders,
Caswell Development Center,
Human Resources Manager**

**John Wilson, BSH Home
Appliances, Human Resources
Manager**

**Shannon Vitak, Vocational
Rehabilitation, Manager**

**Dustin Walston, Lenoir Community
College, Dean of
Continuing Education**

**Jerome Shepard, Carteret County,
HR Generalist/Safety Officer**

**Dr. Jim Ross, Pamlico Community
College, President**

Youth Service Providers

ECWDB works closely with the WIOA Youth Program Providers listed below to bring critical services to the youth (ages 16-24) of our nine-county region. These providers work to: empower the youth to obtain secondary education credentials, provide workplace training, provide access to employment for economic self-sufficiency, and obtain leadership skills. The goal is to improve their quality of life, help them achieve their dreams, and to make the community a better place to live.

- **Carteret Community College (Carteret)**
- **Coastal Carolina Community College (Onslow)**
- **Greene Lamp, Inc. (Craven, Duplin, Pamlico)**
- **Jones County Schools (Jones)**
- **Lenoir Community College (Lenoir, Greene, Jones)**
- **Wayne Community College (Wayne)**



(The contact information for these providers can be found on our website at www.ecwdb.org)

The youth program design offers a unique opportunity to provide a creative and innovative mix of services designed to address the academic, vocational, and employment needs of at-risk youth. The providers listed above are the current WIOA Youth Program Providers under contract in our region.



The following pages will highlight just a few of the many young adults who have succeeded in the NextGen Youth Program. The service providers of our region are working to improve the prospects for our youth and we want to highlight the work they are doing as well as the achievements of the individuals involved in the program.

Makayla Attended Carteret Community College with the Help of WIOA

Makayla initially came to the WIOA program in October of 2017. At the time, she was 16 years old and had a 9th grade education. She lived in Harker’s Island about 30 minutes from the college. Initially, she was only seeking to earn her high school diploma and find employment. After a year of diligent work, Makayla completed her Adult High School Credential on December 19, 2018 with straight A's. When she first entered the WIOA youth program, her identified career goals were Child Psychologist, Teacher, or Physician Assistant. To enter these fields, Makayla realized that she would need more education and training. In January of 2019, she enrolled in the Human Services Technology associate degree program at Carteret Community College. She is currently one semester from graduating her program and has a 3.8 GPA.



Makayla had no work experience or job skills when she entered the WIOA program. She enrolled in paid work experience and started working as an Education Assistant at the Boys and Girls Club. This position allowed her to develop her soft skills, explore her interest in working with children, and develop skills in customer service, technology, clerical and administration, human service, and other transferable skills. After completing her first work experience, she transferred to another Boys & Girls Club in the area to work as a Front Desk Attendant to learn more about administrative duties, data management, and other clerical tasks. After completing that program, she entered a work-based learning activity, again with the Boys and Girls Club, but with a new age group at the Teen Center. Makayla wanted to expand her experiences with developmental levels of children as she was learning to apply the academic training in the work environment. In this position, she was afforded the opportunities to assist in planning recreational, educational, and self-sufficiency activities with the teens served at the center. She was also able to engage with families and serve as a mentor to other youth. Following this placement, Makayla was hired by the Boys & Girls Club and moved to their after-school program for children.

“
I set goals for myself every day. I believe it is the best way to get things done and accomplish your dreams.
”

After working competitively for several months during the summer, she requested to re-engage in WIOA sponsored work-based learning opportunities that would allow her to work with adults, as she was still exploring her long-term occupational options. At that time Makayla began working in the Student Services as a Support Assistant working under a licensed clinician at the college. In this capacity she was able to assist and plan orientation activities, engage in recruitment events for the college, learn about higher education program policies, and learn how to generate reports and surveys. Makayla excelled in this position and the college wanted to provide her with more professional tasks to which she could apply her human service theories and studies, so she moved into a position that allowed her to work directly with Retention and Counseling Services at the college. In this position she assisted and observed early intervention services for students who are at-risk of failing or dropping out of their programs. Additionally, she learned to address crises, create solutions, and help students overcome barriers. She learned about confidentiality laws related to disabilities, counseling, and Title IX services. She also helped update the college catalog and student handbook. Makayla learned to work with complex databases and generate reports for college administrators. Makayla recently moved to a position in the Student Life and college Career Center to learn more about recreational supports for students and helping students like herself prepare for their careers. All of Makayla’s supervisors have expressed rave reviews of her work and her willingness to take on new challenges and learn new skills.

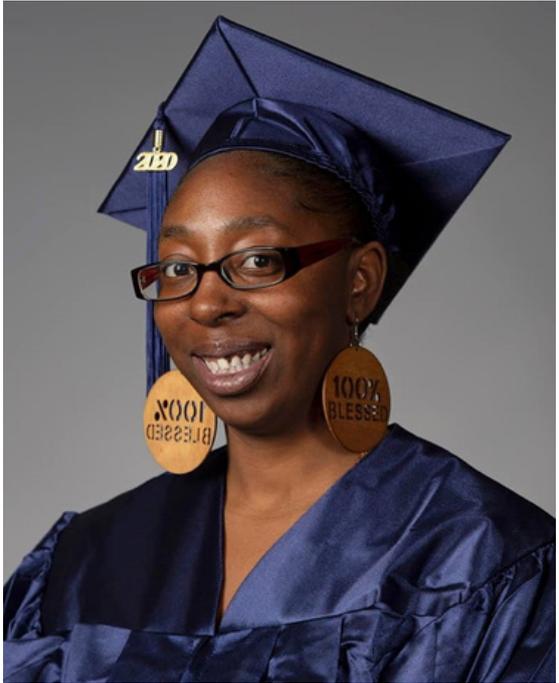
Makayla consistently looks for ways to raise the bar for herself. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Delta and the National Society of Leadership and Success. She is the Public Information Officer with the Carteret Community College Student Government Association and recently was appointed a Student Ambassador for Carteret Community College.

Makayla has overcome many obstacles during her time in the WIOA program. In 2018, she lost her home due to Hurricane Florence. Makayla and her family were forced to reside in a hotel, temporarily, until housing could be secured months later in a neighboring County due to lack of affordable housing in the area. She lost her possessions and home, but never her determination. Makayla is one of the primary caretakers for a disabled parent and has had some significant health issues herself during the past few years. Makayla sets her goals high and does not let setbacks deter her progress. Makayla told us, “I set goals for myself every day. I believe it is the best way to get things done and accomplish your dreams.” Has her sights on graduating this semester and has been working with her Career Advisor to prepare for full-time competitive employment. She plans to work full-time and eventually attend a four-year degree program to continue her endeavors in human services training or counseling services.

Source: Carteret Community College

WIOA Helped Sharieka Open her own Day Care

Sharieka joined the WIOA out-of-school youth program in the summer of 2016. When she first started, she immediately expressed her interest in working with and helping others. At first, her desired career was to become a Clinical Nursing Technician, but as she continued through the program, she discovered that she was interested in the childcare field. She eventually decided that she would love to own her own childcare center. To accomplish this goal, she would have to attain more education and training. Sharieka committed the time and effort into receiving her High School Equivalency in the spring of 2017.



While she was working on her GED®, she participated in work experiences at several local daycares. Sharieka then enrolled in the Early Childhood Program at Wayne Community College in the summer of 2017. After 3 years of hard work, dedication, and commitment, Sharieka was able to participate in the drive-thru graduation celebration at Wayne Community College in the spring of 2020. Due to the pandemic, she could not be awarded her degree until she completed the required practicum hours. She successfully completed her hours in the fall of 2020 and is currently operating her own in-home day care!

Source: Wayne Community College

Diamond Finds Success in the WIOA Youth Program through Work Experiences

Work experience can be a very positive aspect of the WIOA youth program. Diamond was on a paid work experience in multiple positions at Literacy Connections. She started as a Literacy Connections Intern before moving on to her second position as a Registrar Assistant. Each position helped her gain the skills that she would need to work in her desired career path. She was able to gain exposure to the working world and its requirements. In addition to that, she was exposed to many community events such as festivals and career fairs and was able to participate in volunteer opportunities. Last month, after a lot of hard work and dedication, she passed her GED exam. She is currently working as a clerical assistant for Wages Inc., and she is also enrolled in curriculum courses in the Business Administration Program.

Source: Wayne Community College



Craven Community College Graduate Finds Success in the Medical Field

Craven Community College (Craven CC) graduate Jasmine Hodge has used her success as a student to propel her into the healthcare field. From the WIOA Program, she was able to receive the guidance and assistance she needed to complete her education and join the workforce.



Hodge began her college endeavor in 2011 with the hope of attending East Carolina University. After that didn't pan out, she realized that Craven CC offered her a perfect alternative that allowed her to continue living with her mother. She first started at Craven CC in the fall of 2011 with the expectation of becoming a nurse. However, after having children, she soon realized that the steep workload of nursing students did not mesh well with motherhood. She sat down with her advisor, Zomar Peter, and figured out a new degree plan in the Medical Assisting (MA) program.

"Advisors provide clarity on students' academic direction and educational goals," said Peter. "For example, with Jasmine, her goal was to enter the nursing program, but being a single mother, she was not able to stop working. With the nursing program, students are encouraged not to work or work minimally due to the rigor of the program. Advisors will be able to guide students through the prerequisites for all programs, but specifically health and nursing programs. Medical Assisting was perfect for Jasmine because of the various online options available for her work and personal life."

Hodge admitted that the workload in the MA program was still very stressful at times, but the bonds she formed with her classmates and the realization that everyone was going through similar situations helped her through it. She also found comfort in assisting other students who were having difficulty, several of whom were mothers as well.

"We all have the same struggle with trying to study but also be a parent," said Hodge. "We're trying to come to class and also be a parent; to help your kids with their schoolwork and still having your own workload of school and homework. We had a lot of the same struggles but we also all helped each other."

Hodge's story is one of perseverance and dedication. After a time, the workload was too much and she was forced to leave the WIOA program. She did not give up on her goals though, and in 2019 she was able to take the MA test with the help of the Finish Line Grant. The Finish Line Grant provided the funding that allowed her to take the MA test and graduate from the program. She is currently employed at Coastal Carolina Health Care Endoscopy Center and encourages other parents who are in school or thinking about starting to not get discouraged and put forth maximum effort.

Students are able to seek assistance through financial aid, scholarships, and grants to help them complete their education when facing unexpected challenges. Contact Craven Community College or your local NCWorks Career Center to find out more on what programs are available to help you succeed.

"In order for students like Jasmine to be successful at juggling school and motherhood, we provide not only academic advising but we do provide financial assistance for those who are struggling financially," said Peter. "It is important for students like Jasmine to have someone who provides continuous encouragement, hope and a very good listening ear. At Craven, that is what we provide."

Applications for the MA program at Craven CC are now being accepted through May 31, 2021. The program starts in August. For more information, visit cravencc.edu/academics/degrees/medical-assisting or contact Alexa Tarplee, MA program coordinator, at 252-638-1031.

Source: Holly Desrosier, Craven Community College

We are Excited to Announce our Partnership with Two Hawk Workforce Services!



The Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc. (ECWDB) has awarded Two Hawk Workforce Services (THWS) \$1.4 million to operate an On-the-Job Training program (OJT) in the counties of Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Pamlico, and Wayne. Through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the OJT program will provide employment opportunities for older youth, adults, and dislocated workers to connect with local businesses in need of employees. We believe that this is a critical program that will increase the number of qualified workers and fill open positions in our area. We want to bridge the gap between employers and job seekers and THWS will help us achieve this goal.

THWS currently works with workforce development boards across the state to manage approximately \$8.8 million in federal WIOA funds. They have increased their workforce contracting business over 500% since 2014. The corporate management staff at THWS represent significant professional experience, knowledge and understanding of workforce development, job placement, employer/business relations, center management, and regional collaboration and administration.

THWS is committed to working collaboratively with local NCWorks Career Centers and our Business Services team to bring this program to the businesses in our area. THWS has designed outreach efforts to target local businesses in need of hiring qualified workers. The services offered through the OJT program include skill level assessment, job search and placement assistance, business recruitment/referrals of skilled candidates, labor market information, information related to training/retraining, and employment.

“The THWS mission is simple; we are dedicated to providing superior customer service to our clients and customers by delivering exceptional, value-added services. Through our commitment to excellence, we expect our staff to offer the highest level of quality, expertise, and customer satisfaction daily; this applies to our customers, employees, and the communities we serve.” - Sherwood Southerland, Director of THWS.

This OJT program is designed to bring individuals seeking employment with employers who are searching for employees. We are incredibly excited to partner with THWS in a widespread effort to positively impact the job seekers and businesses in our region.

Strategies to Attract and Train Young Adults: Transforming a Generation Through Work-based Learning

The past year was challenging for America's businesses. It was also a challenging year for many young adults ready to enter the workforce. As businesses begin to look to their hiring needs in 2021 and beyond, they will find a changed landscape in many ways. In today's blog, we're talking about how to help businesses hire with confidence and create on-ramps to opportunity for the young adults coming of age and looking to enter the workforce in the pandemic economy.

Think back to the time when, as a young adult, you obtained your first job. What was the experience like? Did you feel positive or was it a time of uncertainty and confusion? Were you unsure of your path or what was expected of you in your new role? Some may look back on their experience as a rite-of-passage, a time of individual transition and transformation. Whether your first entry into the workforce was as a fast-food cook, coffee barista, or spending your summer on a job-shadowing experience, that experience created the narrative you continue to share today. There is no doubt it left an impression on you and your understanding of work and the choices you made, as you pursued future employment opportunities.

The commonly accepted narrative for young adults entering into the workforce is this: students gain exposure to career choices in high school, go to college, obtain a degree or certificate in their selected career path, and easily find jobs after college. But the path to entering the workforce is not always so well defined for many young adults, especially those who are a part of marginalized communities that deal with the many hurdles to establishing their career path. In 2020, the path into the workforce, for many young adults, was further obscured due to the pandemic.

Those youth, who are a part of marginalized communities often find themselves dependent on educational systems that provide limited, if any guidance on how to navigate career and education paths let alone how to navigate a workforce during a global pandemic. With limited opportunities to connect to career pathways or gain guidance, they are left to accept low-wage jobs, which seldom offer any opportunity to advance or earn a living wage. This obstacle traps a generation of talented and hard-working young adults in a cycle of poverty and keeps them moving from one low-wage job to the next.

As American businesses work to overcome the challenges of the past year, hiring managers must navigate a "new normal" when it comes to hiring in the current and future job market. As a part of our workforce ecosystem, businesses have an indispensable role in providing career pathways and opportunities for workers, just as workers have a role in supplying labor to companies. As businesses begin to make projections and look toward the future on how to recover from the current crisis, they can use innovative work-based learning strategies and take advantage of strategic partnerships to identify potential pools of new and skilled candidates to fill positions.

Work-based Learning Models

Through the use of work-based learning, businesses are able to confidently recruit, train, and retain a strong, skilled, and loyal workforce. Businesses implementing work-based learning as a strategy to cultivate their workforce are further constructing opportunities for diverse portions of our communities to transition and transform how they enter the workforce. Here are four work-based learning strategies that businesses can use, many of which provide access to federal and state funding to help support recruitment and training.

...Continued on page 9

Apprenticeships are employer-driven, “earn while you learn” models that combine job-related instruction into curricula tied to the attainment of industry recognized skills and standards. For more about youth apprenticeship and its value to employers, check out this infographic from New America.

Pre-Apprenticeship programs prepare individuals to enter and succeed in registered apprenticeship programs. You can learn more about pre-apprenticeship and find great examples at [Apprenticeship.gov](https://www.apprenticeship.gov).

Work Experience and Internships are planned, structured learning experiences that take place in a workplace for a limited time. Work experiences or internships may be paid or unpaid. Sacramento Works for Youth offers a great [Employers Guide to Developing an Internship Program](#).

On-the-Job Training (OJT) provides reimbursements to employers to help compensate for the costs associated with skills training for newly hired employees and the lost production of current employees providing the training. OJT assists employers who are looking to expand their businesses and who need additional staff trained with specialized skills. Find tips for developing quality on-the-job training.

As we continue to think about young adults coming of age, work-based learning opportunities are essential to maintaining a diverse and well skilled workforce. Continued investment in our youth is an investment in correcting the years of inequities, where underrepresented communities have limited opportunity to advance or participate adequately in the workforce. If we are committed to the vision of a more inclusive society, it begins with building opportunities for our young people to gain the necessary tools to become contributing members of the workforce. Through these continued investments we help young people experience obtaining a job as a rite-of-passage that supports them as they transition and transform into adults.

MaHer continues to work with clients that invest in training opportunities and work-based learning strategies that connect diverse communities to employers.

MaHer & MaHer is a Talent Development firm that helps organizations view their work through the eye of their “customer.” We partner with our clients in identifying ways to improve workflows, align resources, and develop people to excel at fulfilling the needs of the customers they serve. MaHer provides key services essential to organizational success, including business integration, change management, performance management, continuous improvement, and workforce and talent development. In combination these help organizations work in an aligned fashion, producing efficiency, increasing workforce capacity and engagement, and achieving desired outcomes. We go one step further by assisting in the creation of a talent pipeline prepared to do the work using proven skill development strategies, including apprenticeships, work-based learning, and formal and informal training solutions. For more information about our services, visit us at our website or call us at 1-888-90-MAHER.

Source: Anthony Adkisson, MaHer & MaHer



Lenoir Community College WIOA Program Assists Michelle in Achieving her Career

While working in a commission-based job, Michelle Hill of Greene County found herself spending more money than she was making trying to build her clientele and knew she needed to find a better alternative. She sought help from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult program at Lenoir Community College.

The WIOA program, through the NCWorks Career Center, was established to assist adults and dislocated workers in retraining and obtaining employment and it offers a mix of employment, training, and job placement services. Participants may access individual training accounts to assist with tuition, fees, books, supplies, and accident insurance.

Hill met with Ika Grant, WIOA Career Advisor, who assisted her in the LCC admissions process and completion of her Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). With the help of the WIOA program, Hill was able to identify her areas of interest and relate those to programs offered at LCC.

Hill was limited in jobs she could perform due to chronic migraines and constant back pains. Knowing her limitations, Grant worked on finding a field that would be best accommodate her health conditions.

“I am thankful that Mrs. Grant took the time to help with finding a program that best fit my interest and could accommodate my disabilities.”

She enrolled in the Medical Office Administration program and began classes in Spring 2019. Shortly after beginning her online classes, she was placed in a Work-Based Learning (WBL) course, and began working as a processing assistant at Vocational Rehab in Lenoir County. She was working five and half hours per week with hopes of eventually going full time so she could obtain health insurance and better provide for her family.

With rising medical bills from her chronic illnesses and lack of health insurance, Hill was struggling to keep up with her payments. “I was able to provide Michelle with a resource to help her with her healthcare expenses,” Grant said.

Hill managed to maintain a 4.0 grade point average and was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. In May, she successfully earned her Associate in Arts degree in Medical Office Administration, as well as two certificates, and graduated with high honors.

She was offered a full-time position at Vocational Rehab and now has health insurance.

“I am so thankful for the assistance I received from LCC and WIOA. They guided me in the process of starting back school and later landing a job that turned into a career that I love. During my training at Vocational Rehabilitation through the WBL program, I was able to gain employment there,” she said.

“The WIOA program is a wonderful opportunity for individuals. It allowed me to learn new skills I needed to be successful in today’s workforce.”

For more information on the WIOA Program, contact Samara Taft, director of WIOA Title I Programs/ NCWorks Career Center Manager, at sltaft27@lenoircc.edu or (252) 527-6223, ext. 111.

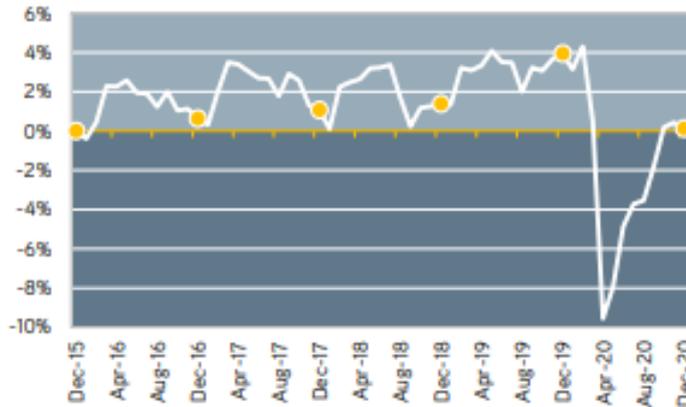


“
I am so thankful for the assistance I received from LCC and WIOA. They guided me in the process of starting back school and later landing a job that turned into a career that I love. During my training at Vocational Rehabilitation through the WBL program, I was able to gain employment there.
”

Source: Richy Honeycutt, Lenoir Community College

Regional Labor Market Snapshot

Change in Employment since 2015*



Eastern Carolina Region

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

Trending

UNEMPLOYMENT*

December 2020

Eastern Carolina Total = 15,265

| | Current | Previous |
|--------|---------|----------|
| Region | 5.8% | 5.7% |
| NC | 6.0% | 6.0% |
| US | 6.5% | 6.4% |

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT*

Eastern Carolina Total = 246,539

751 Fewer People Working in December than previous month

9,385 Fewer People Working than same period one year ago

METRO JOB GROWTH*

Goldsville Total = 38,000

100 More Jobs in December than previous month

Jacksonville Total = 49,800

300 More Jobs in December than previous month

New Bern Total = 42,800

100 More Jobs in December than previous month

TAXABLE RETAIL SALES

Eastern Carolina Total = \$700,061,955

12.4% Higher than same period one year ago

Source: NC Dept. of Revenue
Note: November 2020 data most current available at time of release.

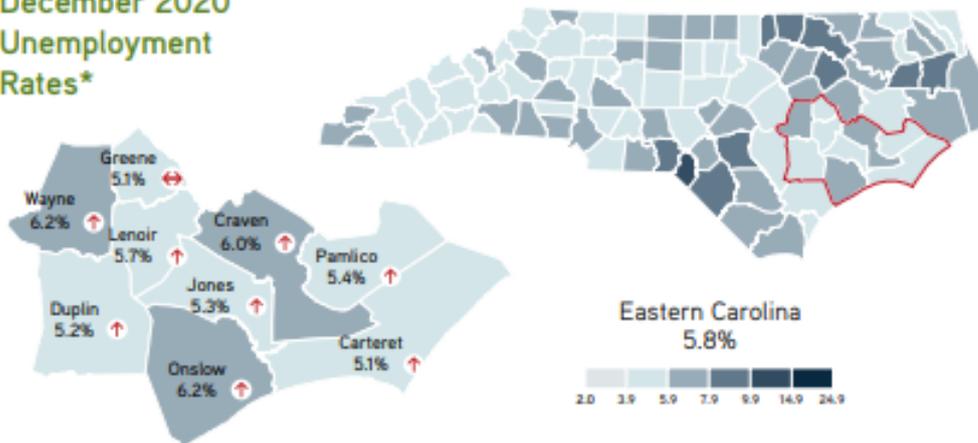
ONLINE JOB ADS

3,466 Online Advertised Vacancies reported in November

166 More Vacancies than same period one year ago

Source: LEAD/The Conference Board
Note: November 2020 data most current available at time of release.

December 2020 Unemployment Rates*



Who's Hiring

past 90 days from Jan. 28th, 2021

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Craven County Schools | 284 |
| Onslow County School District | 171 |
| PruittHealth | 164 |
| Wayne County Public Schools | 148 |
| Food Lion | 147 |
| CarolinaEast Health System | 141 |
| Butterball, LLC | 117 |
| Dollar Tree, Inc. | 115 |

Source: DWS, NC Dept. of Commerce, NCWorks.gov

What Jobs

past 90 days from Jan. 28th, 2021

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Registered Nurses | 654 |
| Combined Food Prep. & Serving Workers | 274 |
| First-Line Supervisors, Food Prep. | 251 |
| Retail Salespersons | 201 |
| Cashiers | 176 |
| Customer Service Representatives | 154 |
| First-Line Supervisors, Retail | 152 |
| Nursing Assistants | 149 |

Source: DWS, NC Dept. of Commerce, NCWorks.gov

*December 2020 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. LEAD generated data are not seasonally adjusted.

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration.



JOBS! JOBS! JOBS!

What: MEGA FORCE DRIVE THRU JOB FAIR

Location: Electrolux Home Products

4850 W Vernon Ave, Kinston NC 28501

When: April 10, 2021

Time: 9 am – 12 pm



Mega Force of Kinston NC will be hosting a Drive Thru Job Fair on April 10th.

YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO GO THROUGH COVID SCREENING AND MASK MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON SITE



High Speed Gear®
BATTLE-PROVEN TACTICAL GEAR™

DRIVE-UP APPLICATION EVENT

Seeking skilled production sewing machine operators and product assemblers

April 13, 10AM – 4PM

87 OLD HAMMOCKS ROAD | SWANSBORO, NC

ON-THE-SPOT INTERVIEWS | DRESS TO IMPRESS

For help with interview prep or a resume, call your local NCWorks Career Center at 910.347.2121

PAID HOLIDAY | PAID TIME OFF | 401(k) WITH MATCH
FULL-TIME HOURS | HEALTH INSURANCE | DENTAL & VISION



VIRTUAL

VETERANS HIRING EVENT

PRESENTED BY LOWE'S & THE CAROLINA PANTHERS

APRIL 16, 2021 | 9:30AM - 3:00PM

[NC4ME.ORG/PANTHERS-LOWES](https://nc4me.org/panthers-lowes)

PRE-MATCH REGISTRATION CLOSES 1 APRIL.



ALL NC4ME EVENTS ARE FREE & OPEN TO ALL VETERANS, TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS, GUARD/RESERVE & MILITARY SPOUSES.

NCWorks Career Center Locations

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 Maine Street
Bayboro, NC 28515
(252) 745-9934

Wayne County

2006 Wayne Memorial Drive
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!



Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc.

1341 South Glenburnie Road
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 636-6901

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

****Due to Covid19, all of the WDB and Committee Meetings are being held virtually through GoToMeeting****

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 3/25/2021 | Youth Council Meeting |
| 4/22/2021 | Executive Committee Meeting |
| 5/6/2021 | ECWDB Consortium Meeting |
| 5/20/21 | Youth Council Meeting |
| 6/3/2021 | NCWorks Business Services Committee Meeting |
| 6/10/2021 | NCWorks Career Pathways Committee Meeting |
| 6/24/2021 | Executive Committee Meeting |

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



A proud partner of the
American Job Center
network