

Communicate with Us!

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Jessie Bode, Fiscal Monitor
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Pat Moss, Administrative Assistant

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Youth Quiz Bowl
at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center
March 12, 2005, 10:00 am-3:00 pm

NC's Eastern Region Strategic Planning Meeting
at 223 Middle Street in New Bern
March 14, 2005, 8:30 am-1:00 pm

NC's Eastern Region Strategic Planning Meeting
at 3800 Hwy. 58 North in Kinston
March 15, 2005, 8:30 am-1:00 pm

LCC/JobLink Career Job Fair 2005
at the Student Center on campus in Kinston
March 16, 2005, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Wayne County Career Day
at Wayne Community College in Goldsboro
March 16, 2005, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Craven County JobLink Career Fair
at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center
March 17, 2005, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

Youth Provider Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
March 24, 2005, 10:00 am

Friends of IOG East Regional Council's Economic Dev. Forum
at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center
March 31, 2005, 12:30-5:00 pm

Youth Council Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
April 5, 2005, 6:00 pm

Lean Experience © Training
at Craven Community College
April 7, 2005, 8:00 am-4:30 pm

ECWDPA Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
April 7, 2005, 10:00 am

NC Association of WDBs
at the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort in Asheville
April 13, 2005, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Adult & DW Provider Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
April 14, 2005, 10:00 am

JobLink Committee Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
April 14, 2005, 6:00 pm

WIA Oversight Committee
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
April 21, 2005, 6:00 pm

Youth Summit
at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center
April 28, 2005, 9:00 am-2:30 pm

Executive Committee Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
April 28, 2005, 6:00 pm

Vision East Strategic Planning Retreat
at the Sea Trail Conference Center
211 Clubhouse Road in Sunset Beach, NC
April 29-30, 2005

ECWDB/Consortium Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
May 5, 2005 6:00 pm



Happy Spring!



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NC's Eastern Region Strategic Planning

A plan to create jobs and attract investment will be developed.

The North Carolina Eastern Region Commission is developing a vision plan to create jobs and attract investment to the Eastern Region.

The Eastern Region has engaged the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness (CREC) to facilitate the planning process. CREC is working with its partner, Eva Klein and Associates, Ltd., to gather insights from key stakeholders, analyze existing research, conduct supplemental research, and guide a group of regional leaders through the process.

The plan will help guide leaders in NC's Eastern Region in targeting business recruitment, retention, and entrepreneurial development efforts. This will fulfill a mandate from the NC General Assembly to develop a vision for the region's economic future.

North Carolina's Eastern Region Commission has created a Strategic Planning Committee to oversee the project and report to the NCER Commission. The Committee will make a recommendation to the Commission based on data generated from this effort.

Currently, the project consultants are conducting preliminary research and background data review. The team will interview key stakeholders (elected and appointed officials, academic leaders, business persons, and economic development professionals) during March and April.

The Committee will then meet to discuss their findings and strategic preferences through the spring and summer months. A final strategy is expected to be completed by late October.

Source: CREC

Burr Visits Craven County

Burr brings hope that Eastern NC will hold ground during BRAC.

Senator Burr brought hope to area leaders during his February 18 visit to Eastern North Carolina about the chances of MCAS Cherry Point and NADEP holding ground through the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.

"If BRAC is a fair process and all assets of this base are fairly presented, feel confident because of what they have here, that it will fare very well," Burr said.

He also toured Craven Community College's

Institute of Aeronautical Technology (IAT), which offers airframe and power plant maintenance training.

Burr said that those lobbying for Cherry Point and NADEP, which provide a \$1.2 billion economic impact, need to show the area's ability to absorb military work from bases closed by the Commission.

He complimented NC's positive efforts to offer better quality of life for those in the military, like the IAT and in-state

university tuition for military families. However, he would not predict an ultimate outcome.



Scott Ralls, Bill Naumann, and Senator Richard Burr

Source: New Bern Sun Journal

Contribute—great achievements are nurtured with the cooperation of many minds with a common vision working

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Current Board of Directors



Slate of Officers

Chief Elected Official: Joseph Wiggins, Jones County

Chairman: Don Harris, Onslow County

Vice Chairman: Melanie Sanders, Wayne County

Secretary/Treasurer: Phil Prescott, Jr., Lenoir County

VISION:
Our vision is a world class workforce meeting the demands of the 21st Century workplace.

MISSION:
Our mission is to develop a comprehensive workforce system throughout eastern North Carolina that results in a highly skilled, productive workforce.



Working together to make a difference in eastern North Carolina!

Carteret County

Mike Kraszeski, Veneer Technologies, Vice President
Dave Inscoe, Carteret County Economic Development, Executive Director
James Garner, Creative Outlet, Owner
Lynda Clay, Chief Elected Official

Craven County

Joseph Greaser, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO, Directing Business Representative
Tom Taylor, Aflac Insurance, Retired Executive
Kimsey Welch, Vocational Rehabilitation, Director
Lee K. Allen, Chief Elected Official

Duplin County

Jerome Shepard, National Spinning, Plant Manager
Alex Asbun, Duplin General Hospital, Director of Latino Health Care Access
Patricia Vinson, Smithfield Foods, Senior Financial Analyst
David G. Sussell, Sr., Chief Elected Official

Greene County

Bud May, Greene Lamp, Inc., Executive Director
Judy Darden, Darden Bookkeeping, Owner
Mary Betty Kearney, Chief Elected Official

Jones County

Frank Emory, Emory Construction, Owner
Thelma Simmons, Jones County DSS, Executive Director
Adrienne Fiedler, Jones Co. Partnership for Children, Early Ed. Specialist
Joseph Wiggins, Chief Elected Official

Lenoir County

Brantley Briley, Lenoir Community College, President
Phil Prescott, Jr., Parker-Lowe & Associates, Imaging Consultant
Debbie Beech Burrell, FACILITATE, CEO
George W. Graham, Jr., Chief Elected Official

Onslow County

Tracey Brown, Onslow CHIP, Director
Don Harris, Stanadyne Diesel, Retired
Ralph Leeds, Employment Security Commission, Manager
Delma G. Collins, Chief Elected Official

Pamlico County

Dorothy Lupton, Buckhorn Books, Owner
Carla Byrnes, B & B Yacht Designs, Owner
Gary Mastrodonato, The Masters, LLC Wealth Mgmt., CEO/President
Christine Mele, Chief Elected Official

Wayne County

Bonnie Carlton, KAN SEEK, Owner
Melanie Sanders, Human Resources Manager
Fletcher Bizzell, Ex-cell Home Fashions, HR Manager
J.D. Evens, Chief Elected Official

A Year in Review...Labor Market Information for 2004

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Carteret County												
Labor Force	29,546	29,302	29,122	29,084	29,237	29,541	29,771	29,406	28,902	28,921	29,212	29,453
Employed	27,349	27,248	27,649	28,136	28,346	28,590	28,913	28,593	28,136	27,976	27,780	27,565
Unemployed	2,197	2,054	1,473	948	891	951	858	813	766	945	1,432	1,888
Rate%	7.4%	7.0%	5.1%	3.3%	3.0%	3.2%	2.9%	2.8%	2.7%	3.3%	4.9%	6.4%
Craven County												
Labor Force	37,002	36,893	37,185	37,777	38,163	38,636	38983	38,457	37,729	37,781	37,412	37,064
Employed	35,299	35,168	35,685	36,314	36,586	36,900	37,317	36,904	36,314	36,108	35,855	35,577
Unemployed	1,703	1,725	1,500	1,463	1,577	1,736	1,666	1,553	1,415	1,673	1,557	1,487
Rate%	4.6%	4.7%	4.0%	3.9%	4.1%	4.5%	4.3%	4.0%	3.8%	4.4%	4.2%	4.0%
Duplin County												
Labor Force	22,944	22,586	22,641	22,525	22,763	23,293	23,481	22,956	22,587	22,849	22,979	23,104
Employed	21,375	21,026	21,327	21,261	21,419	21,829	22,034	21,756	21,528	21,655	21,707	21,742
Unemployed	1,569	1,560	1,314	1,264	1,344	1,464	1,447	1,200	1,059	1,194	1,272	1,362
Rate%	6.8%	6.9%	5.8%	5.6%	5.9%	6.3%	6.2%	5.2%	4.7%	5.2%	5.5%	5.9%
Greene County												
Labor Force	9,330	9,359	9,453	9,657	9,791	9,927	10,014	9,755	9,479	9,414	9,342	9,305
Employed	8,835	8,803	8,932	9,089	9,158	9,236	9,341	9,237	9,089	9,038	8,975	8,905
Unemployed	495	556	521	568	633	691	673	518	390	376	367	400
Rate%	5.3%	5.9%	5.5%	5.9%	6.5%	7.0%	6.7%	5.3%	4.1%	4.0%	3.9%	4.3%
Jones County												
Labor Force	4,646	4,713	4,717	4,788	4,800	4,876	4,931	4,887	4,810	4,786	4,760	4,709
Employed	4,483	4,466	4,532	4,612	4,646	4,686	4,739	4,687	4,612	4,586	4,553	4,518
Unemployed	163	247	185	176	154	190	192	200	198	200	207	191
Rate%	3.5%	5.2%	3.9%	3.7%	3.2%	3.9%	3.9%	4.1%	4.1%	4.2%	4.3%	4.1%
Lenoir County												
Labor Force	28,826	28,670	28,872	29,403	29,786	30,170	30,179	29,677	29,098	28,985	28,887	28,646
Employed	27,090	26,990	27,387	27,869	28,078	28,319	28,639	28,322	27,869	27,711	27,517	27,304
Unemployed	1,736	1,680	1,485	1,534	1,708	1,851	1,540	1,355	1,229	1,274	1,370	1,342
Rate%	6.0%	5.9%	5.1%	5.2%	5.7%	6.1%	5.1%	4.6%	4.2%	4.4%	4.7%	4.7%
Onslow County												
Labor Force	50,781	50,662	50,837	51,055	51,392	51,044	51,255	51,798	50,922	50,943	51,340	51,073
Employed	48,058	47,958	48,569	48,960	49,191	48,581	48,968	49,695	48,950	48,887	48,949	48,748
Unemployed	2,723	2,704	2,268	2,095	2,201	2,463	2,287	2,103	1,972	2,056	2,391	2,325
Rate%	5.4%	5.3%	4.5%	4.1%	4.3%	4.8%	4.5%	4.1%	3.9%	4.0%	4.7%	4.6%
Pamlico County												
Labor Force	5,561	5,544	5,571	5,723	5,742	5,793	5,836	5,758	5,659	5,670	5,633	5,602
Employed	5,352	5,332	5,410	5,506	5,547	5,595	5,658	5,595	5,506	5,474	5,436	5,394
Unemployed	209	212	161	217	195	198	178	163	153	196	197	208
Rate%	3.8%	3.8%	2.9%	3.8%	3.4%	3.4%	3.1%	2.8%	2.7%	3.5%	3.5%	3.7%
Wayne County												
Labor Force	50,448	50,341	50,527	50,511	50,670	50,472	51,295	50,779	50,222	50,641	50,490	50,466
Employed	47,799	47,714	48,226	48,337	48,383	47,892	48,087	48,643	48,282	48,456	48,212	48,113
Unemployed	2,649	2,627	2,301	2,174	2,287	2,580	3,208	2,136	1,940	2,185	2,278	2,353
Rate%	5.3%	5.2%	4.6%	4.3%	4.5%	5.1%	6.3%	4.2%	3.9%	4.3%	4.5%	4.7%

Based on data from the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina

It's All in One Place...



Offering Businesses:

- Employee Recruitment & Retention Assistance
- Customized Training Options
- Labor Market Information
- Job Candidates
- Tax Credit and Hiring Incentive Information
- Workplace Literacy

Offering Individuals/Job Seekers:

- Career Planning and Enhancement
- Job Skills Training
- Job Placement
- Educational Opportunities
- Scholarship and Financial Aid Information
- Listing of Job Openings

Call your local JobLink Career Center today!

- Carteret County JobLink Career Center**
Phone: (252) 726-7151
- Craven County JobLink Career Center**
Phone: (252) 514-4828
- Craven County JobLink Information Site**
Phone: (252) 444-2384
- Duplin County JobLink Career Center**
Phone: (910) 296-2024
- Greene County JobLink Career Center**
Phone: (252) 747-5689
- Jones County JobLink Career Center**
Phone: (252) 448-5021
- Lenoir County JobLink Career Center**
Phone: (252) 527-7320
- Onslow County JobLink Career Center**
Phone: (910) 347-2121
- Onslow County JobLink Information Site**
Phone: (910) 938-6309
- Pamlico County JobLink Career Center**
Phone: (252) 249-1633
- Wayne County JobLink Career Center**
Phone: (919) 731-7950
- Wayne County JobLink Career Center**
Phone: (919) 658-4926

Sponsored by the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc. NC's JobLink Career Centers are an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids & services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. (TTY) 1-800-735-2962 (Voice) 1-800-735-8262

Director's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

In this newsletter, we are focusing our efforts on economic development. The Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board understands the importance of partnering with the Economic Development Commissions in our region. Not only does the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) allow for, and encourage, such partnerships, the economic development community as a whole identifies workforce issues as their number one challenge. It has now become common wisdom that workforce development activities and resources can be used as a valuable tool in a community's economic development strategy. However, there is a gap between possessing knowledge about the opportunities and realizing the potential synergy and mutual benefits.

Without a comprehensive economic development strategy that is aligned to workforce development, our region will not be as prepared for all the new opportunities and/or threats that await us. The two most significant challenges, or in many cases, threats to our local and regional economy, are the rapidly increasing impact of globalization of the economy and the increase in technologies that change the way companies do business. Both changes have dramatically increased the importance of the right workforce. If a community is not preparing the workforce of the future it has no future in terms of retaining or attracting job producing companies.

Some say that economic development is workforce development, and I agree, as it takes a skilled workforce to create and maintain a strong economy. As a region, we have an opportunity to come together to begin the development of a Comprehensive Economic and Workforce Development Strategic Plan for North Carolina's Eastern Region. As some of you may be aware, the State General Assembly has directed each of the seven economic development partnerships to create and implement a strategic economic development plan that is unique to each region. This is an opportunity for each of us to contribute our knowledge and ideas to address the challenges and opportunities that will lead to establishing a sustainable job creating long range plan.

Toward that end, North Carolina's Eastern Region has begun setting up information gathering meetings starting this month to engage community stakeholders in the strategic planning process. We all know that creating a comprehensive economic and workforce development strategy cannot be accomplished by just a few, rather it requires the efforts of all of us working together for one common goal – to prepare our workforce to compete in a global economy so that we are able to continue enjoying the high standard of living that we are accustomed to today. I strongly encourage your participation in these meetings.

Sincerely,

Tammy Childers, Executive Director

The Lean Experience
...working for your company

This **one-day workshop** immerses participants in a hands-on fast-moving learning environment, where you became workers in a race car factory! Short lectures are alternated with four "on your feet" production heats to keep everyone active throughout the day. The result is enhanced retention and greater motivation to apply the Lean concepts in the workplace.

Lean Toolbox TM is applied as video excerpts are reviewed from each heat and mini-kaizen events are planned to improve the next heat. Relevant examples from the racing world are presented as cost, quality, and delivery are improved. Video of actual pit stops emphasize the power of teamwork in practicing the basic tenet of lean thinking—identify & eliminate waste.

Participants will learn firsthand about the nine types of waste, as well as plant layout, visual systems, workplace organization, 6S, quality at the source, teams, pull systems and kanban, SMED, takt time, one-piece flow, poke-yoke, and more.

Your next opportunity to live The Lean Experience © is...

April 7, 2005 (8:00 am-4:30 pm) at Craven Community College, New Bern

Sponsored by the Craven County Manufacturing Skills Alliance

Registration Inforamtion: Contact Judy Cox (Coxj@cravenc.edu)

Please do not delay registering for this opportunity, as it is available to 20 employers.



Attention Workforce Development Board Members

Join us for the Vision East Workforce Development Board Retreat

The Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc. will join forces with Cape Fear, Lumber River, and Region L Workforce Development Boards for a combined strategic planning retreat. The Retreat will be held April 29 & 30 at the Sea Trail Conference Center, 211 Clubhouse Road, in Sunset Beach. John Metcalf, of Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW) will be the facilitator.

We encourage all Board members to attend this very important planning session.

A little bit about the facilitator...

Residing in Charlotte, NC, John P. Metcalf is a Senior Partner with CSW. John served the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Workforce Investment Board from 1995 until 2001, and served as Vice-Chair until 2000. As part of his service, John was fully engaged in developing a strategic plan for the Board and community. He served on the board's Executive Committee, and, prior to serving as Chair of the Board's Life-Long Learning Committee, John served as Chair of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School to Career Partnership for 4 years. Before his involvement with solving workforce issues, Metcalf spent 30 years at AT&T in a broad range of sales and executive leadership positions, and as General Manager of Business Network Sales for North and South Carolina in his last assignment. John is in demand as a speaker at both local and national conferences to provide new insight to boards and their community's role in solving workforce challenges and how to keep the community engaged in the board's work. Locally, he continues to serve on numerous community boards focusing on education and community service.

Please RSVP your meeting plans by Friday, April 15 to Rebecca Thomas-Suchenski, at (252) 636-6901 or thomas@ecwdb.org.

We look forward to seeing you at the Retreat!

Bush's Job Training Reform Proposal

The President expects an increase in trained workers and a decrease in funding.

President Bush plans to cut Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding by \$300 million and expects an additional 100,000 workers to be trained through Community-Based Job Training Grants.

Bush's Job Training Reform proposal would consolidate the WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth, and the Wagner-Peyser (Employment Services) funding streams into a single grant to states.

The FY 2006 Budget requests that the Employment and Training

Administration support the President's goal by requesting \$250 million for Community-Based Job Training Grants. The initiative will be launched in 2005 and will increase training opportunities for workers at community and technical colleges in high growth, high demand industries. Community-Based Job Training Grants will provide job training for 100,000 workers.

Currently, approximately 200,000 adults complete training through the workforce investment system. The President's goal of doubling the

number of workers receiving job training, while cutting funds, will be accomplished through:

- Reducing workforce investment system overhead costs by consolidating funding streams, enforcing administrative cost limits, and other WIA reauthorization reforms, and
- Implementing Community-Based Job Training Grants

For more information on the President's Job Training Reform Proposal, please visit www.doleta.gov.

WIA Reauthorization and the Job Training Improvement Act

Rep. McKeon says the Job Training Improvement Act "will build upon WIA..."

The House passed the Job Training Improvement Act of 2005 by a vote of 224 to 220 on March 2, 2005.

The Job Training Improvement Act was introduced on January 4, 2005 by Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, who is also Chairman of the House Education & the Workforce Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness.

"I am committed to ensuring that job training programs are responsive and effective in helping Americans find a new or better job and quickly return to the workforce," said McKeon.

The Job Training Improvement Act closely resembles the reauthorization bill passed through the House in the last Congress.

"It will build upon WIA to make it more demand driven and provide job-seekers with the tools and flexibility they need, while reducing unnecessary duplication and inefficiency," said McKeon.

The Job Training Improvement Act would improve training opportunities for Americans seeking employment by:

- Eliminating duplication and waste
- Services to help jobseekers get a job

- Ensuring One-Stops are demand-driven
- Removing barriers to job training
- Allowing faith-based groups to help train and re-train workers
- Offering personal reemployment accounts
- Improving Adult Education
- Enhancing Vocational Rehabilitation

The spotlight will now be on the Senate, which has not yet announced its plans for consideration of its WIA Reform bills.

Source: NAWB

Protocol for Serving Older Workers

The protocol calls upon state and local agencies to better serve older workers.

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has announced the release of the Protocol for Serving Older Workers.

The goal of the protocol is to enhance the services provided to older workers and to infuse the One-Stop system with innovative strategies for tapping into this labor pool.

The strategies will help address potential worker shortages by providing workforce services to older Americans and exploring ways for

engaging older workers in response to the rapidly changing skills demands of businesses.

The protocol outlines a set of action steps for key stakeholders to embrace so that the goal of connecting employers to older workers is achieved.

The action steps may be modified by the local workforce development boards to serve other target populations.

The success of the strategies to

serve older workers is dependent upon the full engagement of the key stakeholders' capacities and resources.

For the purpose of creating this particular protocol, the following stakeholders have been identified: the U.S. Department of Labor, State Workforce Investment Boards, Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Centers, Mature Worker Intermediaries and Service Providers.

Source: Training and Employment Notice No. 16-04, 1/31/05

Innovation—the best way to predict the future is to create it.

Lenoir Community College's YELL Club has a Winning Recipe

LCC's YELL Club took second place in chili cook-off competition!

Lenoir Community College's YELL Club participated in a chili cook-off on January 22, 2005. The cook-off was held at Vernon Park Mall in Kinston and was sponsored by the Kinston/Lenoir One-on-One, Inc.

The event was open to the public and chili lovers were given the opportunity to sample the competitors special recipes by purchasing a \$5

ticket, which gave them unlimited bowls of chili. The proceeds benefited the kids of Kinston/Lenoir One-on-One, Inc.

Lenoir Community College's Yell Club demonstrated their leadership in this service project and placed second in the Student Category competition. Congratulations to the LCC Yell Club!

Submitted by: Tezra Parker, LCC



Front row, left: LaShonda Roberson, Christine Byrd, Tichetia Nelson
2nd row, left: Antonio Dodd, Shemica Brown, Alexis Moore

Happy Retirement to Trudy Nelson and Sue Goodman

Trudy Nelson, Manager of the New Bern Employment Security Commission (ESC) and the Craven County JobLink, retired on January 31, 2005.

Trudy began working for the New Bern ESC in 1972. She became the Manager of the New Bern ESC in 2000. Trudy oversaw the development and implementation of the Craven County JobLink, which was chartered on February 23, 2001. At this time, Trudy also began managing the JobLink.

Sue B. Goodman, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Case Manager at James Sprunt Community College, retired on February 1, 2005.

Sue has held this position since the first year Sprunt received the grant, in 2000. The initial program began with 25 planned participants; with 32 currently enrolled.

Trudy is a devoted advocate of the One-Stop system and has worked hard to make the Craven County JobLink successful. Her active participation in the community has been an asset to the Center. Under Trudy's leadership, the Craven County JobLink Career Center reached Level II Rechartering requirements.

Although she is officially retired, Trudy is still involved with projects that began during her tenure, such as the Craven County Career Fair.

It has since grown to include two case manager positions, one tutor and a coordinator.

The WIA Youth Program staff, along with Basic Skills, consider Sue an asset to the department—so much, in fact, they are not completely letting her go! She has agreed to work part-time within the department.



Trudy Nelson Sue Goodman

Congratulations and Best Wishes for a Happy Retirement!!

You have been a great asset to the JobLink Career Centers and your hard work and dedication are appreciated! Just know that you are responsible for making a positive difference in many lives!

Youth Council Updates

A Quiz Bowl will be Held in March and the 4th Annual Youth Summit will be in April.

The first Youth Quiz Bowl will be Saturday, March 12 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center.

There will be thirteen youth teams competing from the Eastern Carolina Local Area.

The Youth Council is preparing for its Fourth Annual Youth Summit on Thursday, April 28 from 9:00 am-2:30 pm at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center. The theme for the event is "We All Have Something to Y.E.L.L. About."

Look for an update about the Quiz Bowl and the Youth Summit in the May newsletter.

For more information about these events, you may call Joe McCarthy, Youth Coordinator at (252) 636-6901.

NC's High School Dropout Rate Shows Slight Increase

Reports shows 4.86% of high school students dropped out during 2003-04 school year.

North Carolina's annual high school dropout rate was released on February 2, 2005.

This public school report showed that 3.29 percent of students in grades

7-12 and 4.86 percent of students in grades 9-12 dropped out in 2003-04.

These rates represent slight increases over the rate for the 2002-03 school year, when the dropout rate

was 3.23 percent for grades 7-12 and 4.78 percent for grades 9-12.

To access the complete report, visit: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org> and look under "In the News."

Cristy Lewis Receives Human Relations Award

Cristy was selected to win this award at the State level of ESC for her excellent work!

Cristy Lewis was recognized at the state level of the Employment Security Commission (ESC) for her superior service and dedication to customers at the Craven County JobLink Career Center in New Bern.

According to Doug Hutson, who nominated her under the Human Relations category, Cristy goes the extra mile when rendering customer service.

“Cristy has the ability to sense when a client is having a bad day and makes the extra effort to make them feel special,” said Hutson.

Hutson said her caring words and calm demeanor during the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel made clients feel cared for and gave them hope.

Congratulations Christy and keep up the good work!



Muriel K. Offerman, ESC Deputy Chairman for Programs, Cristy Lewis, Harry Payne, Jr., Chairman of ESC

35 Participants Complete CDF Certification Class

The ECWDB hosted the Career Development Facilitator training.

The Career Development Facilitator (CDF) certification was established to recognize the training and background of those working in career development fields, and to establish minimum competency area.

The ECWDB has hosted this 120-hour training since 2001. The 2004-05 CDF class was the largest class the ECWDB has ever hosted.

The instructors for the class were Judy Young and intern Ona Vines. Participants came from a broad range of agencies, including: public schools, community colleges, the Employment

Security Commission, the Department of Social Services, private sector employers, and non-profit agencies.

Those who completed the CDF certification class were: Glenn Bass, Lisa Brisson, Matthew Brown, Jan Burnette, Donna Cady, Janice Capdepon, Duane Clark, Rebecca Cook, Ika Dawson, Roger Ferrell, Jay Fields, Victor Foster, James Goff, Lynn Hartley, Kay Henry, Judy Hill, Diane Ivey, Susan Johnson, Mary Joe Karner, Joan Kornegay, Nadia Lewis, Debbie Martin, Becky Melton, LaShaunne Moore, Diane Owens, Darrell Purcell,

Letitia Rawlinson, Judy Rose, Dyann Rowell, Laurie Schultz, Sandra Shepard, Robert Tate, Cristy Lewis, Kim Wells, and Rachel “Kat” Wilkes.



2004-2005 CDF Class

Monique Grannum has Moved to California

Monique moved to Twenty-nine Palms, where her husband is stationed for training.

Monique Grannum was the Program Specialist for the ECWDB. Monique began working for the ECWDB in 2001 as a volunteer through the AmeriCorp Vista Program. She worked as a full-time Vista volunteer for a year.

During her time as a volunteer, Monique worked closely with the Eastern Carolina Youth Council. After being a Vista volunteer, Monique became an employee at the ECWDB.

Monique moved to Twenty-nine Palms in California, where her husband was transferred for training. Monique and her family will be stationed at Twenty-nine Palms through the duration of December.

Monique provided assistance with monitoring the Adult, Dislocated Worker, and some Youth programs. She was responsible for the Incumbent Worker Program data entry and monitoring.

We wish Monique and her family the best and hope to see them back on the East Coast soon!



Monique Grannum

Make it Happen-

Greatness is not where we stand, but in what direction we are moving. We must sail sometimes with wind and sometimes against it—but sail we must, and not drift, nor lie at anchor.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes

Easley Releases 2005-06 Budget for North Carolina

Plan caps spending while providing for continued progress in education and economy.

Gov. Easley proposed a \$16.9 billion budget for 2005-06. The budget would increase investments in education and economic development, but control growth in government spending.

“Three principles continue to guide us in budget development: education progress, job creation and fiscal discipline,” said Easley.

Easley’s budget maintains the one-half cent sales tax and it increases the cigarette tax by 45 cents, which will be phased in over two years. The budget also reduces the top income tax rate.

Investment recommendations are:

- Maintain NC’s Commitment to Education (an additional \$532 million to education above 2004-05 levels)
- Increase Resources for Low-Wealth and At-Risk Schools (consolidates at-

risk funding streams and full funding for the low-wealth formula, increasing that fund by 50 percent)

➤ Provide Teachers and Families New Support Systems (provides \$15 million to supply 100 teams of school social workers and nurses to help meet the needs of the whole child)

➤ Expand More at Four (to provide \$16.6 million in 2005-06 and \$29.3 million in 2006-07 for the new community-based pre-kindergarten program, which is designed to help prepare at-risk four-year old children for success in school)

➤ Restructure High Schools (provides more than \$4 million to expand Learn and Earn in 2005-06 and \$10.3 million in 2006-07, which allows students the opportunity to graduate with a high school diploma and a college degree

after just five years of study)

➤ Recruit and Retain Teachers in the Classroom (\$54 million for a teacher salary increase, \$100 million for ABC bonuses, and \$3.8 million to expand teacher training opportunities)

➤ Provide More Higher Education Opportunity (provides \$84.5 million in additional resources to community and private colleges, and the UNC system, to serve growing enrollments)

➤ Grow the Economy & Create Jobs (An additional \$5 million in support for ports so that goods can be moved more efficiently, additional recruiting tools through responsible firm incentives (\$4 million), expansion of One NC Fund (\$5 million), continuation of JDIG, and support for biotechnology.)

Source: Office of the Governor

One North Carolina Fund Helps Bring Jobs to Lenoir County

Workhorse Aviation Manufacturing LLC to open a plant in the Global TransPark.

Gov. Easley announced Workhorse Aviation Manufacturing LLC will open a manufacturing plant in the Global TransPark near Kinston, creating 50 jobs over the next three years. The project, which will result in a total investment of more than \$2 million, was made possible in part by a \$100,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

“North Carolina is the most military-friendly state in the nation and Workhorse Aviation will be a strong complement to our military-related businesses,” Easley said.

Workhorse Aviation is a manufacturer of structural component

parts for aging military aircraft. The new jobs will be skilled machinist positions that pay an average of \$20/hour. The company will manufacture a variety of components for both out-of-production and existing aircraft.

The One North Carolina Fund helps the state recruit and expand quality jobs by providing financial assistance to businesses or industries deemed by the governor to be vital to a healthy and growing state economy. Through this Fund, more than 13,000 jobs and \$1.8 billion in investment have been created since 2001.

“We chose North Carolina because of its reasonable cost of living, the

financial incentives offered by State and local officials and its proximity to the Naval Air Depot (NADEP) in Cherry Point and the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station in Elizabeth City,” said company President Melanie McTaggart.

Other partners who helped make the project possible include the NC Department of Commerce, Global TransPark Authority, Global TransPark Foundation, the U.S. Navy, Lenoir County, Lenoir Community College, Lenoir Committee of 100, Neuse River Development Authority and NC State University, which will provide training through its College of Engineering.

Source: NC Office of the Governor

Perdue Works to Protect Bases During the 2005 BRAC

The strategy is to protect/increase bases and show that NC is military family-friendly.

Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue has been appointed to lead the state's efforts to protect the military bases during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC) Process.

Perdue has made it her mission to not only protect the bases during the BRAC process, but also add to the military installations in the state.

According to a study by the East

Carolina Regional Development Institute, North Carolina's five major military installations have an economic impact of \$18.1 billion, or six percent of the Gross State Product.

In 2004, the General Assembly made the state more military family-friendly by allowing military personnel stationed in NC and their dependents eligible for in-state tuition at NC's

community colleges. Also, if military personnel get reassigned outside of NC while a dependent is enrolled, in-state tuition would remain in place.

Another proposal to come before the Assembly is to transfer military spouses' teaching certification to North Carolina.

Source: Freedom Raleigh Bureau

Craven County Manufacturing Skills Alliance Luncheon

Luncheon provided an update on available training & resources.

The Manufacturing Skills Alliance Luncheon was held at Craven Community College on February 22, 2005.

The purpose of the luncheon was to engage local manufacturers in dialogue about addressing their workforce needs.

Speakers for the luncheon included, Jim Davis, Executive Director of Craven County Economic Development Commission, Dr. Scott Ralls, President of Craven Community College, Dr. Larry Keen, Vice President for Economic & Workforce Development of the NC Community College System, Bill Rivenbark, Superintendent of Craven County Schools, and Tammy Childers, Executive Director of the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc.

Mr. Davis reported that Craven County's economy is on the upswing as most local businesses reported profits in 2004 and were optimistic about 2005.

Dr. Keen reported on the NC Career Readiness Certificate Initiative, which certifies core employability skills required across multiple industries and occupations. This certificate confirms to employers that an individual possesses basic workplace skills in reading, applied math, and locating information, which are skills that most jobs require.

Ms. Childers reported on available funds to assist manufacturers with their training needs through the Commission on Workforce Development's Incumbent Worker Grant.

Dr. Ralls provided an update on

plans for the Advanced Manufacturing Center at Craven Community College and reported on classes offered through the community college system. He stressed that these programs need the support of the local manufacturing companies to be successful.

Local manufacturers pledged their support and participation in the development of the Craven County Manufacturing Skills Alliance, which will convene on a quarterly basis.



Attendees at the Luncheon

Report Identifies "Best Practices" in Economic Development NC's included investment in biomanufacturing training initiatives.

The Center for Best Practices of the National Governors' Association has produced a report that identifies and summarizes recent developments in economic development.

The study focuses on initiatives that build the workforce, improve innovation capacity, and enhance state's global competitiveness. The report, *Enhancing Competitiveness: A Review of Recent State Economic Development Initiatives*, addresses each activity that is determined to be a "best practice."

North Carolina's "best practices"

were: investment in biomanufacturing training initiatives at universities and community colleges, establishing the Institute of Rural Entrepreneurship, and streamlining environmental permitting.

North Carolina's biomanufacturing investments in training initiatives at universities and community colleges includes over \$60 million in funds. Gov. Easley is also enhancing incentives, infrastructure, low business costs, and a skilled workforce to attract biotechnology to the state.

The Institute for Rural Entrepreneurship stimulates and

supports small business development and entrepreneurship. The Institute also administers the NOW program (New Opportunities for Workers) to help dislocated manufacturing workers in 28 counties to create jobs for themselves through small business start-ups.

The streamlining of environmental permitting enables applicants to pay supplemental fees for accelerated permit review.

To learn more, visit www.nga.org/cdafiles/0501COMPETITIVENESS.pdf

Source: *Southern Compass*

Wayne Community College Receives BioNetwork Grant The \$43,000 grant is part of NC's Community College's biotechnology training initiative

Wayne Community College is preparing to expand its biotechnology program and has received a boost in this effort with a \$43,000 grant to purchase equipment and supplies.

The College is also working on a program with Pitt Community College. Students will be able to take the core courses for an associate's degree in biotechnology at Wayne and then take

the eight upper-level courses at Pitt.

The College's biotechnology program prepares students to work in various fields of biological and chemical technology, in positions such as research assistant, laboratory technician, instrumentation technician, and quality control assurance technician.

According to a survey by the NC Biotechnology Center, the state's

biotech industry is growing by 2,000 jobs a year, which require community college level training.

The \$43,000 grant is one of several that will go towards BioNetwork, the NC Community College System's biotechnology training initiative.

Source: *Goldsboro News-Argus*

Business Services are a Priority in the Local Area

The Commission on Workforce Development has approved a total of ten Incumbent Worker Grant programs for the Eastern Carolina Local Area. Two programs, Georgia-Pacific Plywood and Maxwell Foods Company, have recently been approved. There are four employer Incumbent Worker applications that will soon be submitted to the Commission.

Georgia-Pacific Plywood

Georgia-Pacific Plywood has been approved for an Incumbent Worker grant in the amount of \$25,950.

Georgia-Pacific is a manufacturer of plywood products. The company has been in business in Dudley, NC since 1979 and has grown to 424 employees. Their plywood products

Maxwell Foods Company

Maxwell Foods Company has been approved for an Incumbent Worker grant in the amount of \$2,400.

Maxwell Foods entered the hog production business in 1989 with three employees. The operation has grown to approximately 400 employees, who

The Program provides funding to established North Carolina businesses to provide educational and skills training for current workers. It is designed to benefit businesses by enhancing the skills of employees, and increasing employee productivity and the potential for company growth.

The NC Commission on Workforce Development, the Division of Employment and Training, and the

are sold to retail stores such as Lowe's and Home Depot.

In order to remain competitive within the industry, the plant needs to maintain the highest levels of up-time and efficiency for all of its equipment. Georgia-Pacific has identified the need for support for the currently installed Allen-Bradley PLC 5's, which is a

work at one of the 161 company controlled breeding or finishing facilities, or providing technical support to the contract growers.

Since 1988, the hog production industry has experienced record low market prices. Maxwell Foods

state's 24 Local Areas, established under the Workforce Investment Act, cooperatively administer the Incumbent Worker Program.

Funds for each approved project will be made available to the business entity through a contract between that business and the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc.

computer-oriented device used to automate monitoring and control of industrial plant equipment.

This grant will support Georgia-Pacific's efforts to enhance its employees' occupational and soft skills, while increasing productivity and business profitability.

identified the need for supervisory skills training. Their goal is to change the supervisor's role to that of a leader, mentor, and coach. This grant will support Maxwell Foods' efforts to train employees and increase efficiency.

Duplin County's 18th Annual Industry Appreciation Luncheon

Industry leaders were recognized for their hard work and accomplishments.

The Duplin County Economic Development Commission held its 18th Annual Industry Appreciation Luncheon on January 31, 2005.

Paul Phillips, owner of the New Duplin Warehouse in Wallace, was named Duplin County's Industrialist of

the Year and was recognized at the Annual Luncheon.

Woody Brinson, Duplin County Economic Development Commission Director, said that Phillips has worked hard for his neighbors in Duplin and surrounding counties.

The luncheon also included guest speaker Dr. Lawrence Rouse, President of James Sprunt Community College, and a special presentation by Woody Brinson.

Economic Development Forum Held in Pamlico County

Forum was hosted by the NC Cooperative Extension Service and Pamlico County.

Pamlico County and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service held the Pamlico County Economic Development Forum on February 22, 2005.

The purpose of this public forum was to create dialogue about economic

development in Pamlico County and to assess the impacts, needs, and means by which to address anticipated future growth.

Guest speakers for the Forum included Dr. Mitch Renkow, North Carolina State University Professor,

Wyatt Cutler, Oriental Town Manager, Larry Gwaltney, Sail/Loft Realty, Ed Mitchell, of River Dunes, and Jim Krauss, BRMSD Superintendent.

Great achievements are not born from a single vision, but from the combination of many distinctive viewpoints. Diversity challenges assumptions, open minds unlock our potential to solve any problems that we may face.