

Eastern Carolina WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.



Serving the North Carolina Counties of Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico and Wayne

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North Carolina Leaders Recognize BSH and Craven Community College for Outstanding Partnership

Earns Trio of Prestigious State Awards for Excellence in 2006.

Craven Community College's workforce development partnership with Bosch and Siemens Home Appliances Corp. garnered a trio of prestigious state awards for excellence in 2006.

In April, the partnership was honored with the Special Recognition Award for Outstanding Partnerships Providing Career Opportunities in Apprenticeship from the N.C. Department of Labor. The Labor Department award recognized the efforts of BSH and Craven to create that highly trained and dependable workforce through the apprenticeship program. "The apprenticeship-training partnership between Craven and BSH has been a very successful program for the college, the company, and area high school students," said Dave Bauer.

That award was followed in October by Gov. Mike Easley's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development – Outstanding Employer. The October Governor's Award called special attention to the company's commitment to ensuring that North Carolina is successful in the world marketplace. "The companies and employees who earned these awards demonstrate a commitment to learning the knowledge, talent and skill necessary to succeed in our global economy," said



The BSH-Craven partnership is honored by Commissioner of Labor, Cherie Berry (top photo, at right) and by N.C. Community College System President Martin Lancaster (bottom photo, at right.)

Easley. "I commend them for helping to make North Carolina's workforce one of the most high-skilled and well-educated in our nation."

To complete 2006, the partnership was honored in November with the N.C. Community College System's first-ever "Distinguished Partners for Excellence Award." The community college system was impressed with how the college and BSH have worked together to train the company's entire workforce, from the production facilities to the management team. "Our partnership with Craven Community College is a long-lasting relationship which has enabled us to provide economic opportunities for many citizens in Eastern North Carolina," said Clemens Schaller, BSH's executive vice president and chief technical officer – USA. "The award is proof of what can be done when two entities come to-

gether for a common goal and purpose."

Craven's workforce development partnership with BSH Home Appliances has thrived since 2001. The college in recent years conducted the largest customized training program in North Carolina for a manufacturing expansion, providing BSH with training needed to support the company's development of its North American appliance park in New Bern. Company training included an apprenticeship program and special courses in teamwork, communications, safety, quality, lean manufacturing and production skills, and has enabled BSH to successfully expand its production of world class appliances, including dishwashers, ranges, washers and dryers.

As a result of the BSH expansion, more than 1,000 jobs have been created in Craven County. In December, BSH Home Appliance Corporation announced an \$11 million expansion to its New Bern plant, adding 225 jobs. The new jobs will pay an average of \$36,000 a year and bring the company's annual payroll in New Bern to about \$50 million. The jobs pay about \$4,000 a year more than the county average.

Source: Dave Bauer, CCC



Officers

Joseph Wiggins, *Chief Elected Official*
 Don Harris, *Chairman*
 James Garner, *Vice Chairman*
 Judy Darden, *Secretary/Treasurer*

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 Dave Inscoe, *Carteret County Economic Development, Executive Director*
 James Garner, *Creative Outlet, Owner*

Craven County

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 Kimsey Welch, *Vocational Rehabilitation, Director*
 Ronald Knight, *Communications Workers of America*

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 Woody Brinson, *Duplin County Economic Development*
 Thomasina Williams, *Business Owner*

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

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Brantley Briley, *Lenoir Community College, President*
 Bruce Parson, *Global TransPark, Economic Developer*
 Debbie Beech Burrell, *FACILITATE, CEO*

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Don Harris, *Stanadyne Diesel, Retired*
 Ralph Leeds, *Employment Security Commission, Manager*
 Mona Padrick, *Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce, President*

Pamlico County

Dorothy Lupton, *Buckhorn Books, Owner*
 Carla Byrnes, *B & B Yacht Designs, Owner*
 Wayne Brackin, *Tideland EMC, Job Training and Safety Director*

Wayne County

Bonnie Carlton, *KAN SEEK, Owner*
 Steve Hicks, *Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, President*

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

- Engage business and community leaders in addressing workforce issues and promote strategies to improve education levels & basic workplace skills.
- Strengthen alliances with economic development to identify and address the workforce needs of current and future industries.
- Implement a community awareness plan that promotes the WDB, JobLink Career Centers, and partner services.
- Identify and implement effective employment and training strategies that result in employment opportunities for all citizens.



Director's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year! This newsletter is filled with newsworthy workforce and economic development events that promote partnerships.

On the front page, we recognize BSH Home Appliance Corp. and Craven Community College for their strong collaborative partnership that has literally resulted in hundreds of individuals being trained and hired by BSH. This partnership serves as a regional model in meeting the employer's training needs through customized services. BSH is not only an outstanding employer, but they are also an outstanding Corporate Citizen, who goes well beyond the call of duty to help with local community projects.

Another Outstanding Partnership that is featured in this newsletter is the Wayne County JobLink and Seymour Johnson partnership. Never underestimate the power of a partnership, for great things can happen when everyone is working toward a common goal. While for some BRAC means Base Realignment and Closures, for those of us in the East, it means "Be Ready and Compete". Together, this partnership is ready to serve the armed forces and compete for gainful employment.

Also, you will read USDOL's Seven Elements of Workforce Investment System Transformation. Let us embrace these elements as we continue our efforts in transforming Eastern North Carolina's workforce and economic development landscape.

In closing, I dedicate this newsletter to Sergeant Eric Edmundson and his family. Thank you for your dedication and honorable service to our Country. Your sacrifices will never be forgotten.

May God Continue to Bless Each of You!
Tammy Childers

2006 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS

FOR EXCELLENCE IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CONGRATULATIONS AWARD RECIPIENTS !



Outstanding Employer

Chuck Dale, representing

Bosch and Siemens Home Appliances

Nominated by: Craven Community College



Outstanding Workforce Development Adult

Bettie J. Fisher

Nominated by: Lenoir
County JobLink Career
Center



Outstanding Workforce Development Youth

Roberta M. Scheffer

Nominated by: Greene Lamp,
Inc.

A Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends,

In the September newsletter, I announced to you that three of the 2006 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Workforce Development recipients were from Eastern North Carolina: OUTSTANDING Workforce Development Youth Participant, Ms. Roberta Scheffer, OUTSTANDING Workforce Development Adult Participant, Ms. Bettie Fisher for their personal achievements, and OUTSTANDING Employer of the Year, Bosch and Siemens Home Appliances was recognized for their invaluable contributions to the local economy.

At this year's annual NC Workforce Development Partnership Conference in Greensboro, our local award recipients were honored for their successes. I can say with all sincerity, it was a very proud moment for me to see the Eastern Carolina award winners shine and accept their well-deserved recognition. To our award winners, and to all the workforce development professionals across the Eastern Carolina Workforce Area, I want to thank you for all of your contributions for ensuring a highly-skilled workforce in Eastern North Carolina.

Sincerely,
D.T. Harris



Don Harris, Board Chairman

Eastern Carolina WDB Holds Annual Recognition Banquet

Celebrating Ten Years of Partnerships!

The Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board held their Tenth Annual Recognition Banquet in New Bern to honor program participants, WIA service providers, and JobLink Career Centers. Over 200 people were in attendance at the banquet that took place on November 9, 2006, at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center. Commissioner Joe Wiggins, Chief Elected Official for the Eastern Carolina Job Training Consortium served as the Master of Ceremonies for the annual event. During Program Year 2005-06, the Eastern Carolina Local Area budget exceeded \$6 million and over 3,100 individuals were served in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker programs.

Bill Ragland, President of the North Carolina Association of Workforce Boards offered his remarks and thanked the Board for their leadership in workforce development. Through the State Board Association, Bill commented that he has had the pleasure of working with the Board's past-Chairs for the past ten years to include: Jerome Shepard of Greenville, Bruce Parson of Kinston, Phil Prescott

of Bayboro, and current Chair, Don Harris of Jacksonville, NC. Mr. Ragland recognized Don Harris for his leadership, vision, and dedication to the North Carolina's Workforce system.

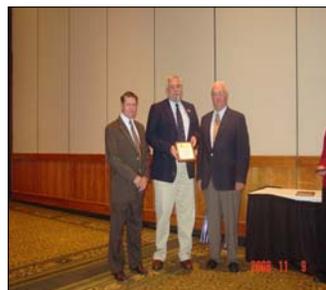
Chairman Don Harris commended all of the WIA service providers and staff for another outstanding year in exceeding WIA performance goals. He stated that he is proud of his association with such a fine group of professionals. Tom White, Director for NC Division of Employment & Training introduced the guest speaker Winston Tompoe, Region 3 Federal Project Officer for the United States Department of Labor, and recognized the contributions of the Board and local JobLink partnerships. He commended the Board and Workforce Investment Act service providers for consistently achieving WIA performance goals. Mr. Tompoe discussed USDOL's vision for workforce and economic development, and stated that the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board is a great example of carrying out USDOL's vision of partnerships. He highlighted the Vision East regional partnership as a best practice of local Boards coming together to think globally while

acting regionally.

Award recipients were: Outstanding Workforce Development Adults - Anna Hill, Carteret Community College, Bettie Fisher, Lenoir Community College, Raymond Nason, North Carolina Employment Security Commission-Jacksonville; Outstanding Workforce Development Youth - Solomon Butler, Dobbs Youth Development Center, Shakeema Murchison, Lenoir Community College, Roberta Scheffer, Greene Lamp, Inc. and Outstanding JobLink Career Center Customer Service - Ms. Sandra Shepard of the Onslow County JobLink Career Center.

JobLink Career Center Partnerships were recognized for their ten-year commitment to building North Carolina's One-Stop System, known as JobLink. Representatives from the JobLink Career Centers in Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Green, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, and Wayne Counties were all recognized for their system building contributions to the job-seekers and employers of the region.

Source: Tammy Childers, ECWDB



USDOL Regional Administrator Shares Vision for Public Workforce Investment System

Helen Parker Recognizes Vision East Partnership for their Regional Efforts.

At the N. C. Association of Workforce Development Boards quarterly meeting held at the October Workforce Development Partnership conference in Greensboro, Helen Parker, USDOL Administrator, shared USDOL's vision for the public workforce system. She updated the Workforce Boards and Directors about the Workforce Innovations Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative and discussed the elements of a successful workforce investment system transformation.

Ms. Parker stated that for the WIRED concept to be a true success, the public workforce system must transform. She commended the Vision East Partnership for their efforts toward this vision of regional partnerships and stronger economies.

The Seven Elements of Workforce Investment System Transformation are:

1. The workforce investment system operates as a talent development system; it is no longer defined as a job training system. Its goal is an

educated and prepared workforce on a U.S. or global standard.

2. Workforce investment system formula funds are transformed, providing significantly increased opportunity for post-secondary education for lifelong learning opportunities aligned with the region's talent development strategy.
3. The workforce investment system no longer operates as an array of silo programs and services.
4. The workforce investment boards are structured and operate on a regional basis and are composed of regional strategic partners who drive investments, aligning spending with a regional economic vision for talent development.
5. Economic and workforce development regions are aligned, and these regions adopt common and innovative policies across the workforce, education and economic development systems and structures that support talent development and the regional economy.
6. The workforce investment system is

agile enough to serve the innovation economy, recognizing the reality that 2/3 of all new jobs are created by small businesses.

7. The workforce investment system actively collaborates with economic development, business, and education partners to gather and analyze a wide array of current and real time workforce and economic data in order to create new knowledge about regional economies and support strategic planning, routinely track economic conditions, measure outcomes, and benchmark economic competitiveness in the global marketplace.

Ms. Parker stressed that if State and Local Workforce Boards can begin to embed these elements into their day-to-day operations, the public workforce system will become an increasingly relevant player in regional economies that ensures a highly-skilled workforce for a global workforce.

Source: USDOL

Wayne Brackin Named Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year

Congratulations to Wayne Brackin!

Wayne Brackin, the newest member on the ECWDB board of directors representing Pamlico County, was recently named Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year. Annually, the Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce honors an outstanding business person with an award given at their Annual Meeting.

The "Business Person of the Year" award recognizes entrepreneurial and business accomplishments as well as contributions to the economic well being and quality of life to the community. Wayne was recognized for his many contributions to the county.



Wayne Brackin, Tideland Electric Membership, Corp.

Currently, Brackin is the Director of Job Training and Safety for Tideland Electric Membership Corp. and is responsible for more than 80

employees in four districts — Grantsboro, Ocracoke, Pantego and Englehardt. Wayne stated that he trains and conducts safety classes for the employees twice a month for each district. "I really enjoy working with the community and economic development," he said. "My job is actually 70 percent safety and 30 percent marketing." Brackin added, "It's an exciting time to be in Pamlico County. People are seeing what they can do here in Pamlico, and I'm just proud to be a part of it."

Source: New Bern Sun Journal

Wayne County JobLink and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base

Serving the Military Community

In November, Winston Tompoe, Federal Project Officer visited the Eastern Carolina Workforce Area. During his two-day visit, Mr. Tompoe was able to see the well established, collaborative, working partnerships across the region. A highlight was the tour through Seymour Johnson Air Force Base's Family Readiness Center, which is a JobLink Information Site, an affiliate of the JobLink Career Center Network. This location is well equipped with a dedicated team of professionals providing employment and training assistance to the military community.

"The Seymour Johnson AFB Family Readiness Center and the Wayne County JobLink have established a relationship that is unique in the entire United States Air Force," stated Marilyn Roseborough, Director of the Family Readiness Center. This formal partnership was established in 2001. Bill Pate, ESC/Wayne County JobLink Manager added, "This is a win-win

partnership for the military community, Seymour Johnson, and the JobLink Center. ESC has trained two Family Service Staff to use the ESC mainframe system and has given them access so that they may refer military personnel or dependents to job openings without requiring those dependents leaving the base."

"Since the Air Force site is considered a JobLink Information Site, the spouses can call and set up an appointment, find out about jobs that are posted only with the Air Force employment counselor, the jobs on the new Air Force employment website for Seymour Johnson, and also the jobs at the NC Employment Security Commission", said Pate. In addition to the job referrals, the Family Readiness Center provides military families with many other supportive services that they need as they relocate to Goldsboro and/or other military bases. All of these services are part of the JobLink system. Other



services include the monthly Transition Assistance Program (TAP) where veteran JobLink staff participate. The Wayne County JobLink partners also are part of the yearly job fair conducted for base personnel. With the BRAC funding, the ECWDB has been able to provide additional career resources and equipment. "This partnership is the only one I know of in the Air Force," states Marilyn Roseborough.

Source: Tammy Childers, ECWDB

North Carolina



Craven County JobLink Partners Host Annual Craven County Career Fair

On Thursday, February 15, 2007, the Craven County JobLink Career Center partners will hold their annual Career Fair at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center. The Twin Rivers Career Fair will be open to the public from Noon – 4 p.m. For additional information about the Fair, please contact Cristy Lewis at the Employment Security Commission office (252) 514-4828, ext. 225 or Cindy Smith at the Vocational Rehabilitation office (252) 514-4727, ext. 206.

NC's JobLinks 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

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) 296-1478

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) 526-4435

Lenoir County JobLink Information Site

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) 745-9931

Wayne County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (919) 731-7950

Wayne County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (919) 658-4926



SHARE Network North Carolina

Recently, the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc. launched the anticipated new program called SHARE Network (*Sharing How Access to Resources Empowers*). The program consists of two components: the Online Resource Directory and Access Points.

The Online Resource Directory (www.ncsharenetwork.com) contains services to help job-seekers find the right job. In the upcoming months each local JobLink will have bookmarks, fliers and pamphlets available in the career resource center marketing the directory.

Access Points are located at volunteer faith-based and community-based organizations where eager job seekers can go in their own communities to look for jobs, assisted by trained individuals who connect them to the JobLink system. Plans are underway to expand the directory across the Eastern Carolina Local Area to ensure our job-seekers

have the resources available to land the perfect job.

Currently, the JobLink partners are working with three faith-based organizations to open as Access Points the beginning of 2007: St. James AME Church in Kinston, St. Peter Church of Christ in Kinston and The Ecclesia Ministries in Richlands. A total of 15 volunteers have completed training and are ready to help assist job-seekers in the three access points. Examples of training areas covered were: how to write effective cover letters, resumes, and interviews.

Thanks to the generous donation of the Lenova Group, a company based in Raleigh, each access point will be equipped with computers to help job-seekers search/apply for jobs online. Additionally, the Division of Employment & Training (DET) has provided resources, such as the WinWay Resume writing software to assist job-seekers with writing cover letters and resumes.

For service organizations interested in becoming a SHARE partner or for more information about the SHARE Network resource directory please contact Jessica Bode at 252-636-6901 or e-mail bode@ecwdb.org.



Jessie Bode, ECWDB, provides training to SHARE network partners. Cliff Marshall, DET, was also present at the training session.

Source: Jessie Bode, ECWDB

North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development Recognizes Lenoir County JobLink Career Center for Achieving Level III

Chartering Status

Congratulations to the Lenoir JobLink Partners!

The Lenoir County JobLink Career Center was recognized for achieving Level III status, the highest level of chartering for local JobLink Centers across the state of North Carolina. Level III status represents a great deal of hard work and demonstrates a high level of collaborating and a commitment to excellence through continuous improvement.

The Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board and JobLink staffs were recognized at the North Carolina Workforce Development Awards for Excellence Ceremony in Greensboro. In addition to a plaque, the Center received \$25,000 for achieving Level III status.

The recognition acknowledges the Lenoir County Partner's commitment to

outstanding customer service in meeting the employment and training needs of Lenoir County's job-seekers and employers.

Don Harris, Chairman of the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, commended the Lenoir County JobLink Partners for their commitment to providing the highest level of customer services. He also thanked the group for their steadfast efforts in seeking alternate funding resources to provide other services, such as the North Carolina's Career Readiness Certificate Initiative to the Lenoir County citizens.

As a part of the new Level III status, the Lenoir County JobLink Partners have expanded their services at the Kinston

Employment Security Commission, designating this location as a JobLink Information Site, an affiliate designation within the JobLink network.

Source: Tammy Childers, ECWDB



Pictured, left to right, front row, are Sandra Webster, Rebecca Cook, Frances Turnage, Ika Dawson; second row, Renee Sutton, Diane Ivey, Ada Chatman, Joan Kornegay, LaShaunne Moore; third row, Tezra Egleton, Susan Gale, Lisa Stancill, Parker Stokes, and Bobby Merritt.

Looking for a Qualified Workforce?

Consider the Military Spouse Workforce

Many businesses seek to employ military veterans and retirees - they are disciplined, flexible, work well in teams, and have strong work ethics. But did you know that military spouses have these same traits? It's true! Hiring a military spouse is a wonderful way to fill your personnel needs. Let's just look at what military spouses can bring to your business.

Education - According to a 2004 study by the Rand Corporation, military spouses generally have a higher education level than their counterparts in the general populace. According to the 1999 Department of Defense's "Profile on the Military Community", 67 percent of military spouses have education beyond high school. Nearly 20 percent have completed at least a bachelor degree, and 1 in 20 spouses have achieved one or more graduate or professional degrees.

Flexibility - The National Association of Colleges and Employers' 2005 annual survey found that "flexibility" and "adaptability" were two of the most sought after skills in potential employees. Military spouses adapt well to change - the same traits that allow them to cope with changing deployment schedules, leave being canceled even after the car is packed, and moving cross-country help spouses be flexible and adaptable in the workplace!

Well-Rounded & Diverse- Military spouses come from all ethnic, religious, and economic backgrounds. During their time married to the military, spouses gain real world experience by living throughout the U.S. and

overseas, learning new languages, and working and volunteering for diverse companies and organizations. By hiring a military spouse, you are bringing a wealth of information and unique perspectives to your company.

Often, the resume of a military spouse will include unique skill sets and diverse experiences. Sometimes unusual, sometimes paid or volunteer, often varying from one geographical territory to another - these skills combine to form a unique, priceless opportunity for your company to draw upon.

Stability - The Department of Labor states that the average American job tenure has been on the decline. For the American workforce today, the average time spent with a company is three to four years before they move on. While frequent moves have been cited as a deterrent to hiring spouses in the past, this trend has become the norm across the United States. The Department of Defense states that the usual time at a duty station is three to five years. The streamlining of military bases and a desire by the military to increase stability in the lives of military families may even increase this further.

Furthermore, spouses who are employed are more likely to remain in the area when the military member is deployed or receives orders overseas on an unaccompanied tour. This provides stability for our local economy.

Continuous Career Training - Military bases offer a plethora of opportunities for military spouses to increase their education and

training. From special seminars and training programs on stress management and team building tools, to career counseling and job placement services - spouses and those transitioning out of the military - have a wealth of resources that are available to them for free or at little cost. If you'd like more information on the services offered to military spouses and those transitioning out of the service, just contact your local bases' Family Support Center or Employment Readiness Office. If you'd like specific information for the base near you, please feel free to contact the NCMBC.

When your business is looking to fulfill personnel needs with someone who is bilingual or someone who will "hit the ground running" consider military spouses. Be willing to truly look at the resume and appreciate the skills that are written in between the lines of a military spouses' resume: flexibility, interpersonal skills, education and unique experiences all add up to a wonderful opportunity for your business.

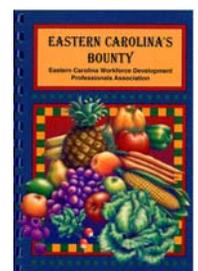
Source:



Renee Siemiet is with the North Carolina Military Business Center. She may be reached at siemiet@ncmbc.us. Contact the North Carolina Military Business Center at 910-323-4587

Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Professional's Association Proudly Presents Their Second Edition Cookbook

In an effort to establish additional emergency funds for needy JobLink clients, the JobLink Partners have compiled their recipes in its second Cookbook publication "Eastern Carolina's Bounty". The cookbooks are only \$7.00 each and is a must have for every cook. For more information about how you can purchase cookbooks, please contact Ms. Sandra Shepard, President of the ECWDPA at the Onslow County JobLink Career Center at (910) 347-2121.



Local Wounded Warrior Hero Returns Home to New Bern Community Involvement is Requested.

In the July 2006 newsletter, I shared with you how members of the New Bern Rotary Club and ECWDB staff visited the Wounded Warrior Barracks at Camp Lejeune. It was during that visit, that I learned of a local non-profit organization "Hope For The Warriors" and how this non-profit is dedicated to providing much needed support to the Wounded Warriors. I could not stop thinking about this organization, so I contacted Shannon Maxwell, the co-founder and Vice President and inquired as to how to get involved. Ms. Maxwell shared information about their programs and mentioned the Warrior Wish Program where people can help grant the wishes of a severely injured soldier who has returned home from Iraq fighting in the Global War on Terror.

Ms. Maxwell let me know of a local hero right here in New Bern. She mentioned that the family had requested a therapy table as a Warrior Wish, and I committed to finding the resources for that table. Shortly after, I was able to meet Sergeant Edmundson and his family. When I think of Eric's spirit, the family's strength, and the sacrifices that Eric has made, I can't help but to cry, mainly out of gratitude for all the military men and women who are serving our great Country, but also, for the helplessness that I feel in thinking about Eric's and all the Wounded

Warrior's sacrifices. Sergeant Eric Edmundson is a member of the 172nd Stryker Brigade, 4th Squadron, 14th Cavalry, stationed out of Fort Wainwright, Alaska. On October 2, 2005, the Stryker vehicle he was driving hit an IED (improvised explosive device). Eric sustained serious injuries and was eventually airlifted to Germany. On October 7th, 2005, he arrived back home in the United States to receive care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C. Eric's injuries sustained from the blast were shrapnel wounds to his abdomen (which required the removal of his spleen), and right leg, and fracture of the T4, T5 vertebrae. While awaiting transport to Germany, Eric went into cardiac arrest and was able to be revived. Because of the time taken to revive Eric, he has sustained an anoxic brain injury. Due to the anoxic brain injury, Eric currently can not walk, talk, eat or drink. These are things he will hopefully be able to regain with medical technology, therapy and time. Eric has put up a courageous fight and is a living example of a true warrior.

Recently Homes For Our Troops announced that they will soon begin building Sgt. Edmundson and his family a handicap accessible home in New Bern, NC. Homes



Eric with 2yr-old daughter, Gracie

For Our Troops is building the house with donated money, materials, and services from local businesses. It is anticipated that the Edmundson family will get to move into their new home possibly as early as summer. To make that happen, numerous volunteers and building supplies for the home are needed. Recently, Craven County Commissioner Steve Tyson (who also serves as Craven County's CEO for the Eastern Carolina Job Training Consortium) spear-headed a fundraising initiative to help send the Wounded Warriors from Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune home for Christmas. During that time, a special donation was collected for the Edmundson family. To find out how you or your business can get involved, please contact Tammy Childers, or visit homefourtroops.org, or hopeforthewarriors.org.

By: Tammy Childers, ECWDB

Onslow County JobLink Holds Career Class for High School Students

JobLink staff stress importance of staying in school and developing strong work ethic.

In December, the Onslow County JobLink staff hosted 15 students from the Dixon High School's Career Development Class. The students were introduced to the JobLink staff and provided a tour of the Center. "It was an opportunity for JobLink staff to discuss the importance of staying in school and completing their education", says Ralph Leeds, ESC/JobLink Manager. While visiting the Center, students received an orientation to JobLink services and received instruction on various ways to look for work. The students received information on how to complete an application for employment, tips on resume preparation, how to appropriately dress for an interview and practiced interviewing skills. The staff also stressed the importance of developing a strong work ethic, discussed the importance of providing excellent customer service, and discussed strategies on how to keep a job.

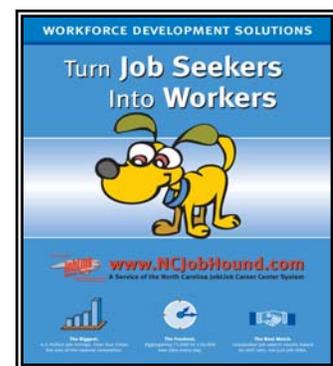
Several of the students have already found employment and shared with the staff

and fellow students how they found their jobs and what their jobs were like. The JobLink staff made sure that the students left with lots of handouts. A visit by some of the JobLink staff to Dixon High School is planned for February.



Lakesha Hill, Greene Lamps' WIA Youth Program Coordinator is shown discussing proper dress with the students using a YELL t-shirt which was awarded to the student with the right answer.

Source: Ralph Leeds, ESC



Looking for a job?

The NCJobHound.com is an up-to-date, powerful job search engine that accesses job openings from both the public and the private sector's webpages. This website tool will access available jobs across the state. Simply enter the job skills you have and then choose the search area. Instantly, job listings will appear.

Eastern Carolina Youth Council Releases 2007 Youth Calendar

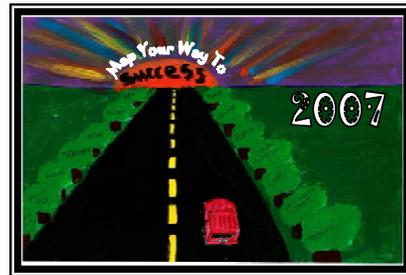
Map Your Way to Success

The Eastern Carolina Youth Council sponsored a calendar art contest where young people from across the Local Area were encouraged to submit artwork to be used as part of the calendar. The theme for the calendar contest was "Map Your Way to Success". The artwork submitted was judged by members and staff of the Youth Council. The artwork winners received prizes for their winning submissions.

The calendar project is a product of the Eastern Carolina Youth Council and was sponsored by the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc. This project is intended as an ongoing career awareness program for the youth of Eastern Carolina.

Calendars will be distributed throughout the school systems within the Local Area as well as to JobLink Career Centers and partner agencies. For more information about obtaining your copy of the 2007 Youth Council Calendar, please contact Joe McCarthy at mccarthy@ecwdb.org or telephone him at 252-636-6901.

Source: Joe McCarthy, ECWDB



First Place Winner Calendar Design Contest

by: Jamie Cappiello, 10th Grade

West Craven High School

New Bern, NC

Make a Difference in Eastern Carolina's Youth!

Volunteer to be a Mentor, Participate in your local High School's Job Shadowing Program, Encourage your Business to become a Work Experience Site, or Join the Eastern Carolina Youth Council!



Get Involved.



Education Matters!

The purpose of the Eastern Carolina Youth Council is to:

- **Motivate youth to achieve success.**
- **Increase employment opportunities.**
- **Build on resources around the region.**
- **Encourage youth to reach their fullest potential.**
- **Educate and engage the public, community and businesses about our work.**
- **Help youth recognize the opportunities available.**
- **Help youth recognize and avoid potential obstacles.**
- **Inform stakeholders about accomplishments.**
- **Promote relevancy of education.**

Do you know of a young person who is in need of financial assistance for college? Tell them about FAFSA Day—Feb. 17, 2007

On Saturday February 17, 2007, college financial aid officers and other financial aid specialists will assist students in the completion and the electronic submission of their **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** forms. The program is open to individuals who plan to attend college in the 2007-08 academic year, and will be held at 51 sites across North Carolina.

For additional information about this program and the locations, please go to the website below:

<https://www.cfnc.org/Gateway?command=ViewEventDetailsUser&id=74>

Eastern Carolina Youth Council Holds Strategic Planning Retreat

Education attainment levels identified as Youth Council priority.

The Eastern Carolina Youth Council held its annual Strategic Planning Retreat on October 13 and 14, 2006 at the Sheraton, Atlantic Beach. Under the leadership of Debbie Beech Burrell, Youth Council Chair, the Council members reviewed and refined the vision, mission, and purpose of the Youth Council during the two day retreat.

The strategic planning session was facilitated by Carol Wargo from the Center for Workforce Learning, Avon, Indiana. The Youth Council brainstormed critical issues that may have an effect on the youth in our Local Area achieving their educational and life-long goals. The Council has developed a draft strategic plan that identifies goals and objectives to address these issues.

The Eastern Carolina Youth Council encourages your involvement and participation. For more information about the Eastern Carolina Youth Council, or to learn how you can become involved, please contact Mr. Joe McCarthy at mccarthy@ecwdb.org or call him at 252-636-6901.

Source: Joe McCarthy, ECWDB

North Carolina Public Schools Offer Online Educational Resources for Parents

The new Parent, Family and Community site represents one of the many state-wide initiatives to educate, inform and advocate for stronger schools through involvement. This site is a collection of links and information addressing various aspects of education and involvement for parents, guardians and community leaders. Visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/parents/> for more information.

Also, if you are interested in learning more about North Carolina Public Schools, join the NC Partners Email Discussion Group! As a member of this group, you will receive information about North Carolina Schools, including updates from the General Assembly, the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction.

You can subscribe via email by sending an email to: join-ncpartners@lists.dpi.state.nc.us. Simply leave the subject line and the body of the message blank. Once you have successfully subscribed, you will receive an email with additional information on how to confirm your membership in the discussion group.

Source: www.ncpublicschools.org

ECWDB Releases Request for Proposal for Youth Services

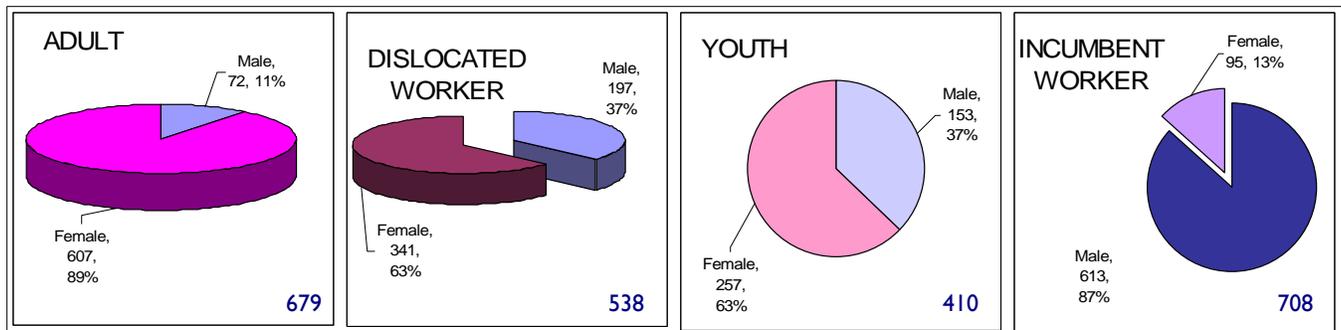
The Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc. will release Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for operation of programs to be funded by Title I of the Workforce Investment Act for Youth in Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, and Wayne Counties. RFPs may be picked up on **January 16, 2007**, at the Eastern Carolina WDB office, located at 1341 South Glenburnie Road, New Bern, NC.

A bidders' conference for the Youth Programs will be held on **January 23, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.** to answer questions. Proposals must be submitted by **4:00 p.m., February 16, 2007**. Contracts will be awarded based on funding availability.

For more information, contact Ms. Tammy Childers, Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc., 1341 S. Glenburnie Road, New Bern, NC 28562; telephone (252) 636-6901, or e-mail at admin@ecwdb.org.

Workforce Investment Act Participant Activity

October 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006





Eastern Carolina

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.

ECWDB Staff:

Tammy Childers, Executive Director
Robert Kehres, Assistant Director
Lisa Harvey, WIA Coordinator
Trina Hale, Accounting Technician
Joe McCarthy, Youth Coordinator
Pat Moss, Administrative Assistant
Debbie Simpkins, Fiscal Monitor
Jessie Bode, Business Services Coordinator

Communicate with Us!

1341 South Glenburnie Road
New Bern, NC 28562
Telephone: (252) 636-6901 or (877) 916-6901

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

ECWDB Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
January 4, 2007, 6:00 pm

NC Association of Workforce Boards Strategic Planning Retreat

at the Clarion Hotel, Greensboro
January 11, 2007, 9:00-3:00

Youth Council Meeting

at the ECWDB Offices in New Bern
February 6, 2007, 6:00 pm

JobLink Committee Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
February 8, 2007, 6:00 pm

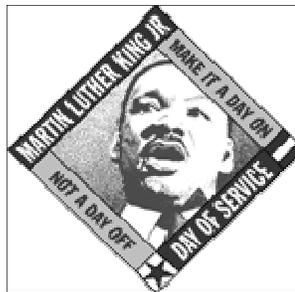
WIA Oversight Committee Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
February 15, 2007, 6:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
February 22, 2007, 6:00 pm

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day January 15, 2007



“Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

Keep the Dream Alive

“I look forward confidently to the day when all who work for a living will be one with no thought to their separateness as Negroes, Jews, Italians or any other distinctions. This will be the day when we bring into full realization the American dream - a dream yet unfulfilled. A dream of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed; a dream of a land where men will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few; a dream of a land where men will not argue that the color of a man's skin determines the content of his character; a dream of a nation where all our gifts and resources are held not for ourselves alone, but as instruments of service for the rest of humanity; the dream of a country where every man will respect the dignity and worth of the human personality.”

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

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