

Eastern Carolina WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.



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

May, 2007

Inside this Issue:

Onslow County Trades Day	1
Board of Directors	2
Message from Chairman	3
Vision East Holds Third Annual Planning Retreat	4
Eastern Carolina Labor Market Conditions April 2007	5
Lenoir County JobLink Has New Director	6
Lenoir County JobLink Career Center in the Top Ten for Issuing CRC	7
Career Readiness Certification Update	7
Craven Community College Honors Leaders in Economic Development	8
North Carolina Military Business Center	8
Alternate Career Path for Young Adults	9
Over 200 Young Adults Attend the 2007 North Carolina Youth Summit	9
Career Development is the Cornerstone of Workforce Development	10
Wayne Community College's WIA Youth Earn Adult High School Diploma	11
Onslow County JobLink Offers Small Group Training to Youth	11
Greene Lamp Youth are Serious About Civic Responsibility	11
ECWDB Staff	12
Mark Your Calendars	12

Onslow County Business Community Sponsors Successful Competitive Skilled Trade Event

Trades Day: Champions at Work

Nationwide, there are approximately 6.7 million jobs in the construction industry; there is an annual shortfall of 60,000 to 80,000 people to fill these jobs. Locally, the supply and demand picture is just as discouraging.

In an effort to provide high school students an insight into the many employment opportunities available within the local construction industry, representatives from area businesses and industry hosted a Trade Fair on the campus of Coastal Carolina Community College on April 28th.

More than 100 Onslow County students from Richlands High School Swansboro High School, White Oak High School, Dixon High School, Jacksonville High School, and Northside High School, competed in a variety of competitive events in Electrical Trades, Construction, Drafting, Masonry, and Welding.

The event was a success by all measures. At the end of the event, W.T. Humphreys, Inc. catered in lunch, followed by the award ceremony. Coastal Carolina Community College and the Onslow County JobLink Career Center had booths set up filled with career planning resources. Most impressive were all of the students and parents who attended and showed their support to the participants. It was truly a community event.

Due to the tremendous success, the Trades Day will become an annual event.



The Trades Day: Champions at Work was sponsored by the following partners and local businesses:

- Onslow County Schools
- Jacksonville/Onslow Chamber of Commerce
- Coastal Carolina Community College
- Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc.
- W. T. Humphrey Inc.
- Onslow County Homebuilders Association
- Gulfstream Steel & Supply
- New Bern Building Supply
- Parker & Associates
- Town & Country Building Co.
- John L. Pierce & Associates
- Fountain Construction
- Askew's Building Supply
- Emerald Coast Inc.
- Modern Exterminating
- Adam's Products
- Elijah Morton Trucking
- Sanders Ford
- Lejeune Honda
- UNICOR Industrial Products
- United Rentals

Source: Jacksonville/Onslow Chamber of Commerce



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Don Harris, *Chairman*
James Garner, *Vice Chairman*
Judy Darden, *Secretary/Treasurer*

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James Garner, *Creative Outlet, Owner*

Craven County

Tom Taylor, *Aflac Insurance, Retired Executive*
Kimsey Welch, *Vocational Rehabilitation, Director*
Ronald Knight, *Communications Workers of America*

Duplin County

Alex Asbun, *Duplin Gen. Hospital, Director of Latino Health Care Access*
Woody Brinson, *Duplin County Economic Development, Executive Director*
Thomasina Williams, *Business Owner*

Greene County

Bud May, *Greene Lamp, Inc., Executive Director*
Judy Darden, *Darden Bookkeeping, Owner*

Jones County

Frank Emory, *Emory Construction, 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*

Onslow County

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

Pamlico County

Jason Hannah, *Hannah Service Center, 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.



A Message from the Chairman



Dear Colleagues,

Now more than ever, the importance of the workforce development profession should not be taken lightly. The men and women who represent our local workforce development system understand the critical role they play in preparing today's workforce for tomorrow's highly skilled jobs. No matter the position, each individual working in this important field is critical to the success of building a highly-skilled, productive workforce that is prepared to compete in a global economy.

Workforce Development Professionals represent a wide range of organizations, including: community colleges, universities, the K-12 school systems, industry and trade associations, state and federal workforce agencies, community based and youth service organizations, advocacy groups, and the local One-Stop system, known in North Carolina as the JobLink Career Center. They represent a group of individuals who possess the knowledge, skills, and unique ability to motivate, challenge, inspire, and help young and old alike to achieve their dreams of a better life. Their contributions are significant because our local, State, and National economies are dependent on a workforce that is highly skilled.

This newsletter highlights the importance of working with our youth, and represents only a small sample of the successes that occur in the Workforce Development system on a daily basis. To all of our staff, JobLink partners, educators, guidance counselors, employment specialists, administrators, policymakers, board members and elected officials who represent this important sector, we appreciate all that you do on a daily basis for the citizens of our region.

Your commitment and dedication to helping others achieve their career goals is evident, as we continue to see our educational attainment levels rise, employment rates remain high, and see businesses expanding and/or locating to eastern North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Don T. Harris

Board Chairman

RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING MAY

AS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS MONTH

WHEREAS, the economic development of every region in our country and the ability of our businesses and industries to compete in the global economy is more than ever before dependent on the availability and quality of a skilled workforce; and

WHEREAS, the complexity and fast-paced change in our economy and labor markets puts new demands on individuals and employers at all levels; and

WHEREAS, job seekers need the assistance of knowledgeable and dedicated professionals to facilitate the process by which our workforce identifies, prepares for, obtains, and maintains employment and self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, employers depend on similar levels of professional services to help them recruit and retain a competitive workforce and to continually upgrade the skill sets of their incumbent employees;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS RESOLVED that the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc., joins with the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals in designating the month of May as *Workforce Development Professionals Month* to honor all those individuals in all the Workforce Development organizations and partnerships who play such a vital role in our economy.

ADOPTED, this 9th day of May, 2007.

D. T. Harris, Chairman

Vision East Holds Third Annual Planning Retreat

“Raising the Bar”

The third annual Vision East Strategic Planning Retreat combined the efforts of the Cape Fear, Cumberland County, Eastern Carolina, Lumber River, Mid Carolina, Northeastern, Region Q, and Turning Point Workforce Development Boards. In total, these eight boards represent over 40% of the 100 North Carolina Counties.

The Vision East Retreat was held at the New Bern Sheraton, on May 4 & 5, 2007, and was facilitated by Wynn Montgomery of Atlanta, GA. The theme for the Retreat was “Raising the Bar”.

The Retreat purpose was to continue regional planning efforts that were initiated in 2005, review the progress toward previously-established goals, to assess alignment with the North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development goals and standards, and establish measures to achieve in the coming year.

The retreat began with identifying the areas of achievement during the past year. Board and staff from the eight boards participated in a self-assessment and had the opportunity to identify areas of progress, as well as areas for improvement.

The self-assessment was developed to establish a baseline of progress towards the established criteria for the North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development Standards for High Performing Local Boards.

The categories were determined to gauge partner involvement in strategic planning, progress made in completing a community audit/state of the workforce reports, defining outcome measures and accountability standards. Additionally, the self-assessment focused on how well the Boards are aligning their efforts to the Commission’s strategic plan objectives, and progress toward the goals established at last year’s planning retreat.

The outcomes revealed that the Vision East Boards were making progress towards their goals, but the Boards need to focus on defining realistic measures towards the strategic goals. There was also much discussion about establishing a formal organizational structure so that the Boards can better collaborate and measure outcomes.

Most of the discussions during the Retreat concerned revisiting strategies to address workforce and economic issues identified through the State of the Workforce Report prepared for the Eastern Carolina Workforce Board and other Vision East Boards, by the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce.

The next steps are to take the key goals and develop timelines and strategies to ensure successful achievement towards those goals. The Board Chairs and Directors will meet again after the strategic planning retreat report is received. Overall, the Retreat was a success.

Source: Bob Kehres, ECWDB



“The Eastern Carolina Region must focus on regional assets and create innovative strategies to support and sustain economic vitality in the global economy. Strategies must focus on fully utilizing youth and incumbent labor, increasing the skill and education levels of the workforce, and developing the growing Hispanic community. Economic development strategies should be created around industry clusters and entrepreneurship, and making the most of a strong community college system that can connect workers to new jobs.

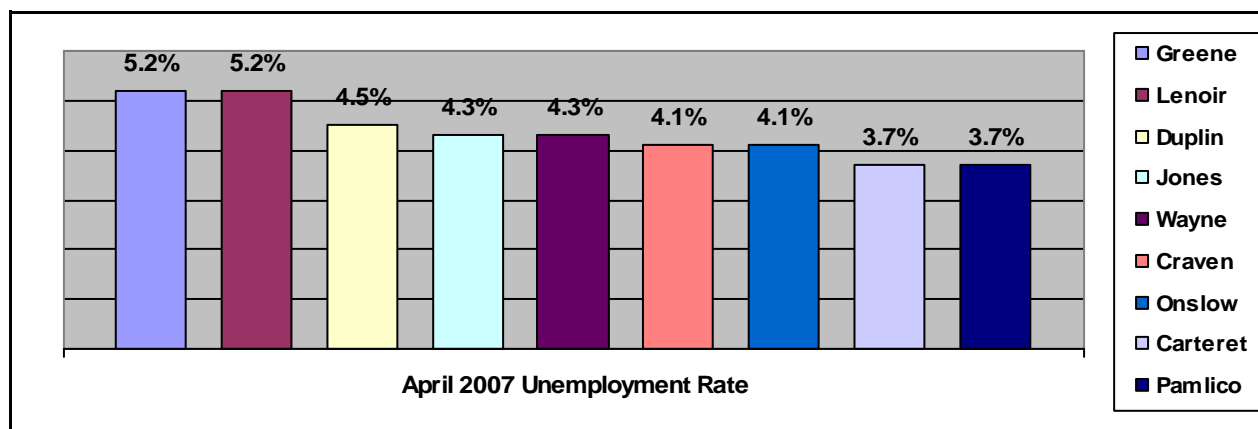
If the Eastern Carolina Region is to prosper in the new economy, regional strategies and policies must be built on a prized asset mentioned time and again in community forums across the region. That asset is the people who make up the region.

The perception of regional residents is they are hard working, family oriented, and committed to their community. This incredible asset is the foundation to build on and the key ingredient to foster discussions on how to sustain economic vitality and overcome challenges in the region.”

Source: 2006 Eastern Carolina State of Workforce Report

Eastern Carolina Labor Market Conditions, April 2007

The Eastern Carolina Local Area unemployment rate in April 2007 decreased to 4.3 percent. During this period, unemployment rates decreased in seven counties, remained the same in one, and increased in one. Greene and Lenoir Counties had the highest unemployment rate at 5.2 percent; followed by Duplin – 4.5; Jones and Wayne – 4.3; Craven and Onslow – 4.1; and Carteret and Pamlico – 3.7. Along with the decrease in the overall unemployment rate, the number employed in the Local Area increased from 247,709 in March to 249,154 in April [+ 1,445]; our growth was 17% of the total employment growth [8,445] experienced by North Carolina.



Carteret County experienced the largest decrease in unemployment – 0.6 percent; followed by Pamlico – 0.5, Duplin – 0.3; and Craven, Jones, Lenoir, and Onslow – 0.1. Wayne County remained the same and the Greene County unemployment rate increased by 0.3. The April unemployment rates for the Metropolitan Statistical Areas in our Local Area were:

Goldsboro – 4.3 percent, remained the same;

Jacksonville – 4.1 percent, down from 4.2 percent.

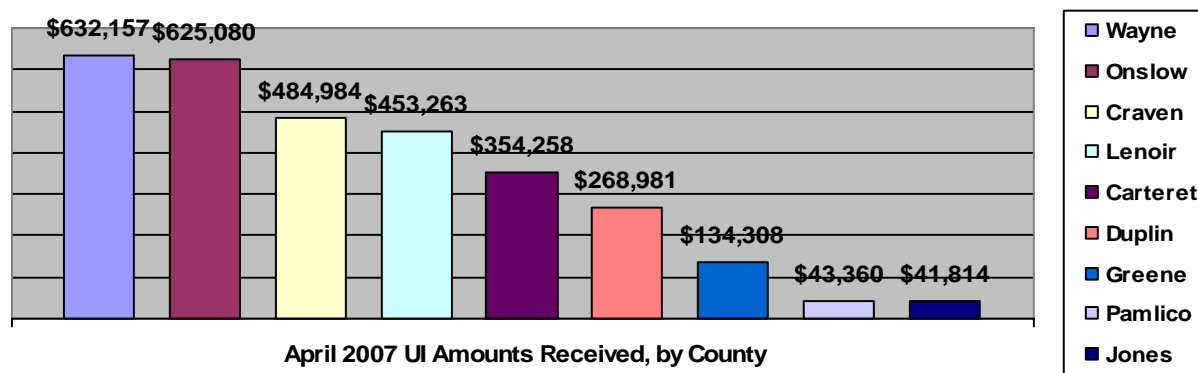
The April unemployment rates for the Micropolitan Statistical Areas in our Local Area were:

Kinston – 5.2 percent, down from 5.3 percent;

Morehead City – 3.7 percent, down from 4.3 percent;

New Bern – 4.1 percent, down from 4.2 percent.

In April, \$3.0 million in unemployment insurance benefits were paid to individuals in the Eastern Carolina Local Area [approximately the same as the previous month]. Wayne County received the highest amount – \$632,157; followed by Onslow – \$625,080; Craven – \$484,984; Lenoir – \$453,263; Carteret – \$354,258; Duplin – \$268,981; Greene – \$134,308; Pamlico – \$43,360; and Jones – \$41,814.



Data based on information from the NC Employment Security Commission *April 2007 data are not seasonally adjusted.

Prepared by: Bob Kehres, ECWDB

Lenoir County JobLink Has New Director

Congratulations to Diane Ivey!

The Lenoir, Greene, and Jones County JobLink Centers are now under new direction. Diane Ivey, a former WIA case manager and JobLink Coordinator who has been involved with JobLink since its inception, was named the new JobLink Director. Ms. Ivey knows the JobLink system and has served on many committees to establish and maintain a workforce system of excellence, not only for her area but also for the entire state.

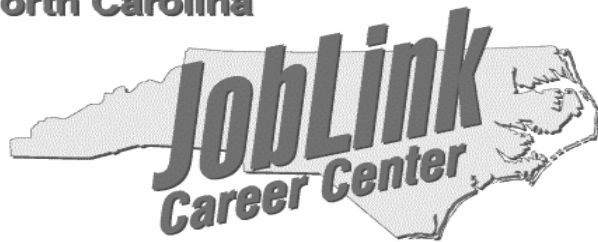
Ms. Ivey is one who inspires her colleagues to be the best they can be at work. She leads by example and volunteers her support and expertise to any project or service provided by the JobLink Centers. Diane has been instrumental in making significant changes regarding services and customer satisfaction within the local JobLink Centers. Ms. Ivey is also a certified Global Career Development Facilitator and an ACT trained job profiler.

In November 2005, she was recognized by ECWDB with the Outstanding Achievement Award for Customer Service.

Ms. Ivey lives in Goldsboro with her husband Bob and their daughter Laura, who is a student at UNC-Chapel Hill. She has worked for the community college system for more than 15 years.

Source: Susan Gale, LCC

North Carolina



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- ◆ Resource for Job-Ready Candidates
- ◆ Employee Recruitment
- ◆ Employee Retention Assistance
- ◆ Rapid Response Consultations for Business Layoffs or Plant Closings
- ◆ Customized Training for Employees
- ◆ Workplace Literacy

Visit your local JobLink Career Center today!

Carteret County JobLink Career Center

Hosted by ESC, Morehead City

Craven County JobLink Career Center

Hosted by ESC, New Bern

Craven County JobLink Information Site

Hosted by Craven CC, Havelock

Duplin County JobLink Career Center

Hosted by ESC, Kenansville

Greene County JobLink Career Center

Hosted by LCC, Snow Hill

Jones County JobLink Career Center

Hosted by LCC, Trenton

Lenoir County JobLink Career Center

Hosted by LCC, Kinston

Lenoir County JobLink Information Site

Hosted by ESC, Kinston

Onslow County JobLink Career Center

Hosted by ESC, Jacksonville

Onslow County JobLink Information Site

Hosted by Coastal CC, Jacksonville

Pamlico County JobLink Career Center

Hosted by PCC, Bayboro

Wayne County JobLink Career Center

Hosted by ESC, Goldsboro

Wayne County JobLink Career Center

Hosted by ESC, Mount Olive

Wayne County JobLink Information Site

Hosted by Seymour Johnson Air Force Base
Family Readiness Center

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

Lenoir County JobLink Career Center in the Top Ten for Issuing Career Readiness Certificates

Lenoir County JobLink Center is proud to be in the top ten in NC for issuing Career Readiness Certificates. The state of NC has joined a consortium of other states to offer CRC as an economic development tool via a partnership among the JobLink system, the Community College system and the Employment Security Commission.

The Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) is an assessment-based credential that gives employers and career seekers a uniform measure of key workplace skills.

The CRC database allows companies with expansion or re-location plans

to look at a given area to determine if the workforce in the area has the basic workplace skills needed to make the company successful.

CRC is a tool that employers may use to eliminate the guesswork about applicants' skills. An employer may also use CRC as a means to evaluate the skills of current employees for promotion or to design training based on needs of the organization.

CRC is earned when an individual completes WorkKeys® testing in Reading for Information, Locating Information, and Applied Math.

The certification shows proof of the

skills of its holder at three levels: Gold, Silver or Bronze.

To earn Bronze, individuals must score no lower than Level 3 in each area; for Silver, no lower than Level 4 in each area; for Gold, no lower than Level 5 in each area.

CRC is an excellent addition to any other certification, diploma or degree already held by a job seeker. By adding CRC to their portfolios, jobseekers will prove they have certain transferable skills vital to today's ever-changing workplace.

Source: LCC

Career Readiness Certification Update

North Carolina Receives "Crystal Globe Award" for Best State CRC System.



Stacy Jarvis, Andrea German-Willis, Governor Jeb Bush, Dr. Deese, & Dr. Chasteen.

In May, North Carolina received the "Crystal Globe Award" at the National WorkKeys Conference held in New Orleans, presented by Dr. Teresa Chasteen, President of the Worldwide Interactive Network (WIN) for being recognized as the Best State CRC System.

Dr. Stephanie Deese and Pam Gobel with the North Carolina Community College System accepted the award on behalf of North Carolina. "This special recognition is a result of all the hard work of the local community colleges,

JobLink partners, and workforce boards", Dr. Deese stated.

Currently there are 34 CRC sites, with plans of adding at least 12 more sites within the next six months. Seven colleges will be funded in August with another round of RFPs going out this fall to add an additional 5 sites.

The new sites that do not have to submit another RFP include: Forsyth CC, Durham CC, James Sprunt CC, Nash CC, Sampson CC, Central Carolina CC, and South Piedmont CC.

Other updates include:

- To date, 208 companies in North Carolina have completed WorkKeys profiles. The total number of profiles is 720. This includes work from the CRC, New and Expanding Industry, Focused Industrial Training program, and the Incumbent Worker Program.
- Since July 2006, 4,569 individuals have been awarded their Career Readiness Certifications.
- Scotland County High School, the first in the state to test high school students, recently awarded 10 CRC

credentials to those students. Beaufort and Randolph CC are also working with their high schools to provide CRC assessments.

- Randolph CC received a \$25,000 grant from Energizer battery for the CRC initiative.
- Catwaba Valley received a grant of \$2,000 from Wal-Mart to assist with the CRC initiative.
- Marketing efforts are now underway to publicize the CRC initiative statewide. CRC brochures have been developed and are being distributed to all CRC sites.

Source: Dr. Deese, NCCCS

Craven Community College Honors Leaders in Economic Development

Special Recognition Given to our Friend, Tim Rhodes For His Leadership

Craven Community College officials joined dozens of workforce training leaders from across Eastern North Carolina to honor one of the unsung heroes of economic development. Roy Timothy "Tim" Rhodes, who is the N.C. Community College System's Regional Director of Economic & Workforce Development, was saluted for his efforts to develop training programs for new and expanding industries in the eastern part of the state.

In Craven County, Rhodes played a crucial role in developing the worker-training package for BSH Home Appliances Corp., and he was instrumental in persuading the N.C. General Assembly to fund the construction of a regional advanced manufacturing training center at Craven's New Bern campus. For his efforts, the college's Board of Trustees recently approved a resolution calling for

the conference room in the soon-to-be-constructed Bosch and Siemens Advanced Manufacturing Center to be named in honor of Rhodes.

"This man has had a major impact on opportunities for people all across Eastern North Carolina," CCC President Scott Ralls said during a short ceremony held at the college's Orringer Auditorium. "He has made the lives of so many people better." Joining Ralls in praising Rhodes were dozens of workforce development colleagues from around the region who were at Craven's New Bern campus last week for a regional meeting.

Rhodes, who is battling cancer, attended the event with his wife, Wilda, and their two children. He was given a framed copy of the trustees' resolution. "Thank you so much," he said after receiving a standing ovation.

Rhodes was born in Sanford and at-

tended N.C. State University and East Carolina University. After working in the telecommunications industry and running his own contracting company, Rhodes was hired in 1997 to be the community college system's Director of Economic & Workforce Development for the southeast, eastern and northeast regions of North Carolina. In that role, he worked with 24 community colleges to provide training and services to new and expanding industries.

At the ceremony, Board of Trustees Chairman Don Brinkley, read aloud the text of the resolution that he and other trustees had unanimously approved at their Feb. 27 meeting. Work on the Bosch and Siemens Advanced Manufacturing Center is expected to begin soon, with completion scheduled in time for the Fall 2008 semester.



North Carolina

Military Business Center

We're connecting North Carolina businesses
with federal opportunities and resources every day.

MatchForce.org

FREE: official website of the State of North Carolina

MatchForce.org connects:

- NC businesses to government contracts and subcontracting opportunities and offers free employment postings.
- Government Buyer and prime contractors to NC suppliers with a dynamic market research tool.
- Military and other job seekers to employment opportunities across the state.

Business Development

- Our team of experienced business development specialists across the state:
- Identify federal prime, sub-contractor and teaming opportunities
- Contact businesses to compete
- Assist businesses with proposals to win government business

Contact us toll free at (877) 245-5520 or visit www.ncmbc.us

Alternate Career Path For Young Adults

Skilled Trade Workers Needed

The goal of all generations, past and present, has been to provide the education and opportunity for their children to have a better life than their parents. In the present time, most parents believe this can best be accomplished by sending their children to a college to receive a four-year degree. For a large majority of young adults, this is, indeed, the best option to obtaining a better life than their parents.

However, college is not the best option for some of our young adults for a variety of reasons. What happens to these young adults? Where do they go to start a new career; earn a livelihood for themselves; and later their new family? The majority of manufacturing facilities have closed local operations and moved either

offshore, to the Far East, or to Latin American countries to take advantage of cheaper labor. What is left for North Carolina and especially our area are the skilled trades. Most parents and young adults do not realize the tremendous need in our area for skilled trade workers. They also do not realize the earning potential and career opportunities the skilled trades provide. For the past several years, in the construction industry in general there has been a shortage of plumbers, sheet metal mechanics, welders, pipe fitters, HVAC technicians, and even qualified helpers. There are also shortages in other various skilled trades, i.e., block masons, brick masons, carpenters, automotive mechanics, etc. The workforce in these skilled trades is aging and fewer young adults are entering these trades to

eventually replace them.

There is great potential for earning and career growth in these skilled trades. If our young adults who choose not to attend college, would go to a community college and get a certification and/or a two-year degree in one of these trade skills; then they could earn a good salary and also have a good career. After several years in these trades, there is also the potential to move into various management positions, which are in high demand as well. This is a win-win situation for young adults who choose this career path, and for those companies that utilize the skilled trades.

Source: Reprinted from the Jacksonville/Onslow Chamber Voice – April, 2007

Over 200 Young Adults attend the 2007 North Carolina Youth Summit



The North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development, a thirty-eight member Commission led by private sector chair, Chris Rolfe of Duke Energy, includes representatives from the business community, heads of state workforce agencies, educators, community leaders, and representatives from organized labor that are challenged with recommending policies and strategies that will enable the state's workforce to compete in the current and future global economy.

The Commission is also charged with creating an effective, coherent and comprehensive workforce system from the numerous workforce programs administered through various state and local agencies.

In April, the North Carolina commission on Workforce Development sponsored the 2007 North Carolina Youth Summit held in High Point.

Over 200 young adults attended from across the state. The theme "Young Adults, One Voice" focused on bringing

youth together to identify and address statewide critical issues for youth, share best practices and develop value added solutions.

Youth attended various workshops that allowed them to interact and gather information to present a State Plan of Action with timelines to North Carolina Legislators and elected officials.

These young adults are serious about taking action and sending the message that our future leaders of tomorrow are ready today.

Seven youth representing Eastern Carolina, along with Joe McCarthy of ECWDB, Joy Williams and Duane Clark of Greene Lamp, Inc. and Tezra Egleton of Lenoir Community College attended this event.

Local Workforce Development Boards instrumental in the planning of this event were: Cape Fear, Capital Area, Centralina, Charlotte/Mecklenburg, Cumberland, Davidson, Durham, Eastern Carolina, Greensboro/High Point/Guilford,

Kerr-Tarr, Lumber River, Northeastern, Pee Dee, Regional Partnership, Southwestern, Turning Point and Western Piedmont.



Source: ECWDB

Career Development is the Cornerstone of Workforce Development

Together We Make A Difference

Effective career awareness helps to communicate the opportunities that exist outside the realm of the university track for students, dropouts, graduates, and other adults. It also works to de-stigmatize and enhance appreciation for vocational and technical careers in the community. Awareness, however, should not be limited to the education community.

Helping youth understand the current labor market conditions is critical to career awareness. Understanding which industries have been growing, and are projected to grow, helps to inform job seekers where the jobs are and will be.

There are industries in the Region that employ a significant number of people, have been growing, and are projected to keep growing. It follows that key occupations in industries that have these three characteristics are more secure than occupations in industries which currently support lower employment numbers, have been declining in employment, and have projections indicating future employment decline.

Connecting employers to career awareness will help to ensure that young adults spend their early working years launching careers with growth

Career Development is the Cornerstone of Workforce Development

- *Making sure the emerging workforce understands the current and emerging labor market*
- *Ensuring employers are partners in the process through activities like advising curriculum and providing job shadowing, mentoring, and internship opportunities*
- *Helping make sure educators, guidance counselors and parents have the tools to help the emerging workforce make informed decisions about the opportunities in the region*

potential. Employer involvement in career awareness will help promote the quality and quantity of jobs available in industries. Employer involvement will also aid in applicable skill development, and help to strengthen the tie between

work and school. Data gathered through the interviews and focus groups for the 2006 Eastern Carolina State of the Workforce Report shows that many employers around the region are participating in some type of career awareness program. However, employer participation is not consistent in form and there was no systemic approach or evidence of any career awareness programs.

With career counselors in high schools over-loaded with students and new career opportunities developing everyday, career awareness must be approached from many sides.

Employers can help counselors and educators focus on students' career interests by identifying career options and objectives, as well as helping evaluate student aptitudes. The partnership that must exist between parents, educators, counselors, businesses and the public sector will help youth make informed decisions regarding post-secondary education and training possible. A strong partnership helps youth see the relevance of academic skills as they are used in the workplace and give meaning to concepts being learned.

Source: 2006 Eastern Carolina State of the Workforce Report



Get Involved.



Education Matters!

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.
- Join the Eastern Carolina Youth Council!

Wayne Community College's WIA Youth Earn Adult High School Diplomas

Workforce Investment Act Youth Program participants graduated from Wayne Community College Class of 2007 Commencement Exercises with an Adult High Diploma degree on May 11, 2007.

They were Marquita Avery, Brandie Barrett, Crystal Bennett, Tommy Cannon, Victoria Crawford, Lakesha Faison, Heather French, Sherelle Hardy, Wade Hertrampf, Ishmael Joel, Ebony Logan, Monica McQueen, Shaina Pitsenbarger, Courtney Smith, Shalanda Tune, Heather

Waltman, Willie Wheeler and Jay-Shon White. Victoria Crawford graduated with Honors.

WIA participants, Marquita Avery and Wade Hertrampf, were not only graduates but were Marshals too. The criteria for Marshals is based on classroom attendance, classroom participation, and honor academics.



Source: Denece Berry, WCC

Onslow County JobLink Offers Small Group Training to Youth

Lakesha Hill and Sherry Carter, Onslow County WIA Youth Career Consultants, Greene Lamp, Inc. found that small group job and life skills training was just what their participants needed. Lakesha said, "You would think basic life/job skills would be inherent to everyone but not so." After some problems with work experience activities, Sherry and Lakesha decided that training was needed before participants could re-enter the work experience activity.

Because of our affiliation with the Onslow JobLink Career Center located at the ESC, resources and personnel were readily available. Sherry said, "We didn't have to re-invent the wheel." Ms. Kelley Hamilton, Disabled Veterans Out-

reach Specialist, was happy to provide the necessary training to include appropriate attire, appearance, and punctuality as it relates to getting the job and career development. She encouraged them to do well and talked frankly about "What employers are expecting in the workplace." The youth participated in positive activities relating to the topics.

Sherry and Lakesha provided an overview of the work experience activity and what youth should anticipate or expect while at the worksite. This gave participants an opportunity to discuss the training topics. As a result, small group training sessions will be utilized more in the future.



Source: Joy Williams, Greene Lamp, Inc.

Greene Lamp Youth are Serious about Civic Responsibility

Greene Lamp WIA Youth completed their Civic Leadership, Education and Responsibility (Operation CLEAR) grant with a full day of activities in Raleigh. On April 12, thirteen youth and five counselors visited the NC Museum of Natural History, sat in on a legislative session, toured the legislative building, and met with Representative Van Braxton for an information session.

Representative Braxton spent a good amount of time explaining what we saw and heard during the session. Furthermore, he shared with the group what his day is like and what he hopes to accomplish during his time in the NC House of Representatives.

For the past year, 60 youth participated in numerous activities to learn about their civic responsibility. Debates, quiz bowl, and job shadowing of elected officials were used to enhance their learning.

Thirty youth completed a self-study notebook which included reading material and then answering questions. With other grant funds we were able to purchase educational materials and supplies to continue our civic education studies. What a great leadership project this was for our youth.

The grant awarded by the NC Civic Education consortium was funded by the Z. Smith Reynolds foundation.



Source: Joy Williams, Greene Lamp, 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
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Communicate with Us!

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Executive Committee Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
June 28, 2007, 6:00 pm

ECWDB Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
July 12, 2007, 6:00 pm

Youth Council Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
August 7, 2007, 6:00 pm

JobLink Committee Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
August 9, 2007, 6:00 pm

WIA Oversight Committee Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
August 16, 2007, 6:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
August 23, 2007, 6:00 pm

**NC Workforce Dev. Partnership
Conference**
Greensboro, NC
October 17—19, 2007

Memorial Day
May 28, 2007



***“Greater love has no
one than this,
than to lay down
one's life for his friends.”***

— John 15:13 NIV