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Another community in Eastern NC has reason to celebrate the state of its workforce. In June, Lenoir County was declared a Certified WorkReady Community by North Carolina's Eastern Region. Largely funded by the NC Rural Economic Development Center, the initiative is under leadership and direction from North Carolina's Eastern Region (NCER). NCER is an economic development organization which seeks to build a regional capacity to support economic growth and create opportunities which have and immediate and/or transformational impact upon the area economy. WorkReady Communities builds upon the highly acclaimed ASPIRE initiative in which NCER has given more than \$1 million to support the growth of the Career Readiness Certificate across the region.

"We are very pleased to declare Lenoir County as a Certified WorkReady Community. NCER is committed to workforce development as a priority to attract and retain industry and strengthen the regional economy. Without a strong network of partners and funding from the NC Rural Center such an accomplishment would not be possible," said Kathy Howard, Vice President for Workforce & Client Development, NCER.

Communities can earn the



designation by achieving certain standards, displaying their commitment to workforce excellence. The partnership must receive a pledge from 10 of the top 20 largest employers to utilize the Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) in employment practices with a minimum of 5% of the labor force possessing a CRC and increase the high school graduation rate by 1% with a minimum qualifying rate of 70%.

"When I approached Steve Mazingo Superintendent of the Lenoir County Schools and our local industry and community leaders about WorkReady Communities they were excited to be a part of the process. It's a recognition that we believe will result in more jobs and more investment for Lenoir County. We are proud to be one of only four counties to reach this level," remarked Bobby Merritt, Director of Industry Training, Lenoir Community College.

Through the WorkReady Communities initiative employers gain confidence that job seekers possess the foun-

dational skills necessary to be trained, the potential of dramatically reducing turnover thereby boosting the bottom line and a common language is shared between employers and job seekers on the skills needed for specific jobs.

"The WorkReady Communities designation is an asset to our business and industries because it tells them that we are prepared with a job ready workforce as companies look to locate or expand in our Community. The training tools that have been put in place will assist our people that are looking for jobs or just looking to better prepare themselves for advancement within their existing jobs," said Mark Pope, Executive Director, Lenoir County Economic Development.

As part of the WorkReady program, employers are able to take advantage of a free job portal which connects them to job seekers around the 13 county Eastern Region. Nearly 140 employers have access to the portal which serves any industry and any level of job seeker.

For more information on WorkReady Communities please visit www.ncworkready.org.

Source: nceast.org



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Dr. Lawrence Rouse, *James Sprunt Community College, President*

Al Searles, *Murphy Brown, LLC., VP-Transportation and Feed Manufacturing*

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Lenoir County

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Debbie Beech Burrell, *FACILITATE, CEO*

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Ralph Leeds, *NC Division of Workforce Solutions, Manager*

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Wayne County

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Gerald Jones, *Southco Distributing Company, Human Resources Director*

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.



www.ncvisioneast.org

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past several months I have had the opportunity to attend both the National and State Associations meetings for Work Force Development Boards. Because of these experiences I have gained a new perspective on the work that we do and realize that the realm of workforce development is very broad, very complex, and today, very uncertain.

I think that our staff and committee chairs have never been more challenged having to steer this organization in a climate of ever changing rules, responsibilities, and fiscal policy.

When I speak of rules I am referring to the initiatives to reform workforce development through bills which are now in review in both the State and Federal legislatures that will amend the Workforce Investment Act. Currently there are 10 pending House Resolutions and 1 Senate Bill at the federal level that propose to amend the WIA. In the North Carolina legislature there are 6 House Resolutions and 1 Senate Bill which propose to do the same.

When I speak of ever changing responsibilities I am referring to the emerging partnership between the Workforce Development Boards and the Division of Workforce Solutions. Today we have arrived at a muddy vision of how North Carolina's Career Center System will deliver "improved performance, more coordinated access to services, and accountability of workforce development service delivery." There is however, much work that needs to be done to craft an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of both partners.

When I speak of fiscal policy I am referring to our funding streams and the uncertainties of operating our programs with a Federal budget authorized under a continuing resolution and sequester.

In a very shorthand way I have described the big picture challenges that the Board and staff have to deal with. However, if you can ignore the noise of all of this, our mission remains the same as it has always been, that is, connecting a job seeker with a relevant, sustaining, and reliable job opportunity. That is what we do.

And our success at making this connection may come one person at a time.

What's one job? Possibly life changing. Possibly history changing.

I am reminded of this when I walk through our factory visiting the second shift. You may remember Nikita, the young man with a prison record who spoke to you several meetings ago about his experience with the Carteret County Career Center. Every time I see Nikita he expresses his gratitude. And you know who he is thankful to? It is not me. He is grateful to those people at the Career Center who cared enough about him to make the connection, job seeker to job opportunity.

One person at a time. This is what we do.

Thank you for making a difference!

*Mike Kraszeski
Chairman*

Commission on Workforce Approves Career Center Certification Criteria

With the implementation of the soon to be 'Integrated Service Delivery' Model, local Workforce Development Boards are busy evaluating current Center structures to determine their readiness as it relates to meeting the State's new Certification Criteria founded upon high quality standards.

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 established a One-Stop workforce delivery system and requires there be at least one One-Stop location (Career Center) in each local workforce investment area. These Career Centers provide workforce development services as well as access to other programs and activities carried out by One-Stop partners identified in the WIA. The Commission on Workforce Development works on behalf of the Governor and under the authority of the WIA, N.C. General Statute 143B-438.10 and other applicable laws, rules, regulations and requirements to develop and oversee an effective and efficient workforce development system in North Carolina.

The commission establishes minimum certification criteria to certify Career Centers in partnership with local Workforce Development Boards (WDBs). The commission developed these certification criteria to ensure a consistent level of quality service delivery throughout the workforce delivery system. The criteria are used as standards to certify and re-certify centers. The commission understands the importance of establishing minimum standards that allow for local flexibility, while protecting the minimum service expectations of the system brand. It is the commission's vision that these criteria move the system to higher levels of quality and seamless service, as well as to foster performance accountability and continuous improvement.

Integrated Services Delivery

The Division of Workforce Solutions within the North Carolina Department of Commerce provides staff support to the commission to carry out the commission's duty to develop an effective and efficient workforce development system. The division is also the administrator for WIA, Wagner-Peyser, and Trade Adjustment Act funding and is one of the key partners of the workforce delivery system. The division provides the administrative/policy guidance and funding resources to WDBs. Local

WDBs, under the WIA and N.C. General Statute 143B-438.11, are policy, planning, and oversight entities responsible for organizing a comprehensive, community-wide response to the challenges of building a highly skilled workforce. In carrying out this responsibility, WDBs are responsible for assessing the needs of employers and job seekers and determining the appropriate geographic areas where Career Centers are needed. Working in partnership with the commission, it is the local WDBs' responsibility to ensure that operational and service quality standards are being followed by certified centers and to help protect the system brand.

The Division of Workforce Solutions is implementing a state-wide, integrated services delivery approach to better serve the state's citizens and businesses by responding to customer needs. This approach is described in *A Framework for Re-Engineering North Carolina's Workforce Delivery System*. Integrated services delivery focuses on customer service and is organized around services to customers, not discrete programs offered in silos. In North Carolina, it is a system in which WIA Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker programs and the Wagner-Peyser Employment Services program are the operational backbone of Career Centers.

Centers implementing this system deploy integrated staffing and utilize integrated technology to generate an integrated customer pool and customer flow. Integrated staffing refers to center staff organized by function, not by program or employer (funding source), with the purpose of serving customers efficiently and effectively. Staff organized by function is cross-trained so that all center staff has the capacity to serve all customers and is knowledgeable about all services the center offers.

Integrated technology refers to a single, web-based system that provides job matching services to job seekers and employers, as well as program and client management/participant tracking used by staff. It is this web-based system that helps achieve an integrated customer pool, where all customers (when eligibility permits) are enrolled in both the WIA Title I Adult program and Wagner-Peyser program; and all Trade Adjustment Act customers are enrolled in the WIA Title I Dislocated Worker program.

Integrated customer flow responds to customer need, not just to program requirements. Integrated customer flow refers to four major functions found at a Career Center that comprise customer welcome, skill development, employment services, and employer services. Regarding services offered, the term product box is used to describe a center's programs and services, including any number of "products" related to job placement assistance and job readiness activities, skill development services, occupational training that leads to a credential, and work-based learning.

Certification Criteria

Criteria have been established by the Commission on Workforce Development for North Carolina's Career Centers. Two types (or levels) of centers have been defined. While the type of services offered at a Level 1 and Level 2 center differ, the criteria for both remain the same. It is required that each local workforce investment area have at least one Level 1 Career Center. Level 1 and Level 2 centers are locations with full-time hours of operations as defined by the Local WDB.

A Level 1 Career Center is a physical location at which integrated services delivery is fully implemented and where services include at least Trade Adjustment Act, Veterans Employment Services, Wagner-Peyser, WIA Adult, and WIA Dislocated Worker.

A Level 2 Career Center is a physical location at which integrated services delivery is fully implemented and where services include at least core Wagner-Peyser and core WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker services.

To apply for certification as a Level 1 or Level 2 Career Center and to use the Career Center brand, the following minimum criteria must be met in the following categories:

1. Location and Appearance
2. Operations
3. North Carolina's Unified Web Portal
4. Trained Staff
5. Customer Satisfaction
6. Partnerships

Moving forward, Boards and Center staff are excited will be busy in addressing these criteria.

Craven County JobLink Partners Host Annual Twin Rivers Career Fair



Employers' willingness to hire was obvious on May 30 at New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, where hundreds of job seekers turned out to meet them and turn in resumes. Representatives from 30 businesses — locally, from surrounding counties and as far away as Durham — were part of this year's Annual Twin Rivers Career Fair.

Joy Hudson, manager of division of

workforce solutions with Craven County JobLink, said it was a good economic sign. Last year there were fewer employers at the career fair, she said. "The job market has been tough," Hudson said. "But it looks like employers are starting to hire and people are looking for employment."

Hudson said the JobLink office gets about 100 people a day seeking employment. She estimated 400 to 500 would show up at the career fair. About 50 or 60 people were waiting to get in before it started, she said.

Individuals who have been out of work for years and those who were laid off and who have given up were back seeking employment, Hudson said. Employers even brought applications and were willing to interview some prospec-

tive employees on the spot, she said. "It's nice that we are starting to see the job market get better," Hudson said.

Some of the 30 employers included Walmart, Suddenlink, Durham Police Department, New York Life, Beasley Broadcasting Group, Monarch, Craven County Smart Start and Coca Cola Bottling Company Consolidated.

Twin Rivers Career Fair was hosted by the Craven County JobLink Center and Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board.

Source: <http://www.newbernsj.com>

Greene, Jones, and Lenoir County JobLinks host Employer Symposium

Source: Lenoir County JobLink

Wayne and Duplin County JobLinks Hosts Business Services Seminar



The Wayne and Duplin County JobLink Career Centers joined together to host a Business Services Lunch and Learn Seminar for area employers.

Approximately 170 invitations were extended to a cross section of small, medium, and large companies that might benefit from information on specific services currently available. Presentations were given by Kathy Howard and Steven Pearce with the NC Eastern Region Development Commission; Leckie Scott and Joann McKenzie with the NC Department of Commerce, Division of Employment Services Unemployment Insurance Tax Unit; Diane Ivey with the Wayne Community College Business and Industry Center; Lula Powell with the NC Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program; and Willie Walker, Victor Hinnant, and Greg Chavez with the NC Department of

Commerce, Division of Workforce Solutions presenting on the Veteran Services Program, the Former Offender Program, and the Human Services Program. The seminar was designed to provide employers with resource information that is available to them in the local JobLink Centers. Following was a luncheon where employers were able to meet with Center staff and further discuss service options.

Source: Wayne County JobLink

Carteret County JobLink Center Launches New Training Programs

The Carteret County Career Center is developing a new approach to provide a wider, more responsive array of workforce services to business and job-seekers. The center is the area office of the N.C. Commerce Department's Division of Workforce Solutions at 309 Commerce Ave. The initiative includes offering to job hunters free training opportunity for skills that have been specifically identified as needed by area employers, including clerical skills, software training and improved abilities in math and English. "I want to make this office more responsive to businesses and offer them the things they need to open, sustain or expand business," said Larry Woods, manager of the Morehead City office. He said the effort, known as integrated service delivery, is intended to get businesses more engaged with the center and identify skills and training needs and to get educational programs implemented. "If you can't get typing lessons on your own, you can come here," Mr. Woods said. He said the effort is part of a statewide initiative to refocus on employment and business needs.

"Carteret County local office is leading the way in this and the division is very, very supportive of what we are doing locally," Mr. Woods said. The office works with Carteret Community College, the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce and the County Economic Development Council to match business needs with training opportunities, many of which are or will soon be available at

the career center. Planning for the effort began in 2012 when unemployment rates in the county were over 9 percent. The ultimate goal was to offer programs that would encourage hiring.

"Businesses are the only ones that can correct unemployment," Mr. Woods said. By offering training in specific skills that are considered most practical to employers, companies may be encouraged to add positions that may have been difficult to fill in the past. The center is also providing training for certification or continuing education credits in professional fields. Plans are in the works to also engage with other training providers to provide center-based training as identified and needed by businesses.

An advisory committee is being formed to directly engage business in the identification of needed workforce-development services. "That committee has already received formal recognition by the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, a New Bern-based nonprofit organization that administers programs funded through the Federal Workforce Investment Act.

The office here had previously launched an assistance program for employers to reimburse companies that are required to do drug screenings and criminal background checks as a condition of employment. Those costs may have deterred companies from hiring in the past, Mr. Woods

said. "These are some first steps, but they are significant in the refocusing of the center's efforts in employment and reemployment of a quality workforce," Mr. Woods said.

Source: News-Times

Chamber Members Invited to Participate in 'Focus Group': How can the local 'Career Center' serve you better?

The Carteret County Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a "focus group" meeting in the Chamber Conference Room in Morehead City. The purpose was to: Learn more from Larry Woods of the Carteret County Career Center (JobLink) about the state's new "integrated service delivery model"...and how it will work to benefit local employers. Woods said "dynamic changes" are in the works to ensure the Center (a unit of North Carolina Division of Workforce Solutions) is more responsive to the needs of local employers. "If we are to be successful in the employment and re-employment of a quality workforce, then we must receive direction from employers who create and maintain jobs in our community, commented Woods. "Therefore, as a first step, we want input from employers."

Source: Larry Woods, Carteret County JobLink

Volunteers More Likely to Land Jobs, Study Finds

A new report from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) provides compelling empirical evidence establishing an association between volunteering and employment.

The study, "[Volunteering as a Pathway to Employment: Does Volunteering Increase Odds of Finding a Job for the Out of Work?](#)" finds that unemployed individuals who volunteer over the next year have 27 percent higher odds of being employed at the end of the year than non volunteers. The relationship between volunteering and employment holds stable regardless of

a person's gender, age, ethnicity, geographical area, or job market conditions.

The federal agency used 10 years of data from the Census Bureau and analyzed a nationally representative sample of more than 70,000 individuals 16 years or older who were looking for work.

The report examines their volunteer and employment status over two years to determine whether there was a relationship between volunteering and securing a job.

Tips for Enhancing Customer Service

**From entry level to seasoned professional,
we link you to the right opportunity.**

Let us help you with your employment and training needs. Our customer-service team is passionate about helping businesses find and retain a qualified, competitive workforce.

Save time and money by tapping into our local network of employment and training solutions.

Post Your Jobs • Recruit Talented Employees
Train Your Staff • Get Competitive Labor Market Information



Eastern Carolina's Career Centers:

Carteret County	(252) 726-7151
Craven County	(252) 514-4828
Duplin County	(910) 296-1478
Greene County	(252) 747-5689
Jones County	(252) 448-4791
Lenoir County	(252) 527-7320
Onslow County	(910) 347-2121
Pamlico County	(252) 745-9934
Wayne County	(919) 731-7950



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www.ecwdb.org

North Carolina Association of Workforce Boards Legislative Update

In a recent news conference, Governor McCrory listed his top four priorities for this year: the Energy Bill, Medicaid Waivers, the State Personnel Act, and the reorganization of the Department of Commerce. It appeared the Department of Commerce bill was on a roll when it last passed out of a committee. But the Senate, where the bill originated, didn't seem to take kindly to the House so drastically altering it and ordered the bill sent to three separate committees. Its passage seems unlikely for now as it is difficult to hurdle one committee, much less three.

So, with the possibility that Senate Bill 127 may languish in multiple committee boxes and never see the light of day, what's to become of the proposed changes to Workforce Development? Several scenarios are possible: 1) The bill does eventually come out of committee and is passed. Life goes on as planned. 2) The bill faces the committee, is further altered, and eventually becomes law. 3) The bill sits in committee until the Short Session next year. Or 4) the bill dies because interested parties cannot come to any agreement.

The Voter ID bill is scheduled to be heard on the floor Tuesday, July 16. And The Speaker has signaled his hope that this bill will be the wrap up for the Long Session. Currently, Finance, Commerce, and Appropriations (the committees before which the bill must be heard) are not scheduled to meet prior to July 16, making it seem unlikely Senate Bill 127 will get its days in committee prior to adjournment. In Congressional news, Rep. George Miller, Senior Democrat on the Education and Workforce Development Committee, has sent a letter to Chairman John Kline asking him to do what is necessary to roll back the increase in student loan interest. Last week, when Congress was unable to get enough votes to prevent it, student loan interest rates doubled. This change in rates will be especially detrimental to those looking to get additional job training.

North Carolina Bills

[S127, Economic Development Modifications](#). This bill calls for the Department of Commerce to contract with an unnamed and not-yet-created non-profit whose duty it will be to ensure compliance with the regulations set forth in the bill. According to Senator Harry Brown, the bill's main sponsor, one of the goals of the legislation is to get Regional Economic Development Groups off the public dole by incentivizing their growth through private money. "Until you pull away the dollars, they don't have

any incentive," is how he phrased it. The bill cuts in half the funding these groups will receive. The bill also repeals the state statutes that create regional economic development commissions and the commissions themselves. New "Prosperity Zones" will be formed. This language is the same as the third edition of the bill. The Bill has passed out of the House and is currently in the Senate Finance Committee.

[H55 Reform Workforce Development](#). (companion to S147) Currently in the Senate Rules Committee. **Dead.**

[Senate Bill 73, Local Workforce Dev./Dislocated Workers](#). Currently in the House Commerce Committee.

[H691 Limit Soldiers' CC Tuition](#). Does not allow the community college system to charge a returning soldier more than the amount he or she would receive in federal aid. Favorably reported out of Senate Education and sent to Appropriations.

[H902 An Act to Create the Education and Workforce Innovation Act](#). This act creates a commission whose responsibility it would be to ensure North Carolina has an educated and capable workforce. The act would require cooperation between the K-12, university, and community college systems. Currently in the Senate Education Committee.

Federal Bills

[HR 803, SKILLS Act](#)—Was introduced by Rep. Virginia Foxx on February 25, 2013. The bill is a major overhaul of the Workforce Investment Act, with the biggest change being the means of funding to WIA: All state funding would be converted from individual grants for specific projects to a single block grant that states would be able to divvy up at their discretion. Amendments were made to the bill during the floor discussion; however, Rep. George Miller lead Democrat on the House Education Committee is still not pleased with the text of the bill. The bill sped through the House and landed in the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions where it has sat since March 18, 2013. GovTrack gives it an 18% chance of becoming law.

[HR 113, Workforce Investments through Local Libraries Act or WILL Act](#) - Amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and revises requirements for member composition of state and local workforce investment boards to include individuals and organizations representing public libraries. Introduced by Rep. R. Holt (D-NJ), January 3, 2013. Referred to the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and

the Workforce.

[HR 114, Online Job Training Act of 2013](#) - Amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to require the Secretary of Labor to award National Online Workforce Training Grants for workforce training programs using distance-learning technologies, such as the Internet. Requires such grants to be awarded on a competitive basis to educational institutions, community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, state or local boards, or units of general local government that provide online workforce training. Introduced by Rep. R. Holt (D-NJ), January 3, 2013. Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

[HR 497, the America Works Act of 2013](#) (House version) was introduced by Rep. Barletta (R-PA). This bill is nearly identical to the bill introduced by Senator Hagan. *The bill is currently in the House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Trade.*

[HR 546, The Promoting Partnerships to Transform Opportunities Act](#) was introduced by Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ). The bill seeks to help those with multiple barriers in employment, specifically historically under-represented minorities, receive job training through non-profits. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. *The bill is currently in the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.*

[Senate Bill 655, A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to authorize the Secretary of Labor to provide grants for Urban Jobs Programs, and for other purposes](#). was introduced March 22, 2013 by Senator Gillibrand (D-NY). *It has been referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.*

[HR 919, Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act of 2013 or "SECTORS"](#), was introduced by Rep. David Loebsack (D-IA). This bill amends the WIA of 1998 by adding a section awarding three-year grants to entities who (1) encourage growth and competitiveness through work with employers within a targeted industry cluster; (2) help workers move toward economic self-sufficiency and ensure that they have access to supportive services; (3) address the needs of firms with limited human resources or in-house training capacity, including small- and medium-sized firms; and (4) coordinate with entities that carry out state and local workforce investment, economic development, and education activities. *The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.*

Analyst: Economy netted +195,000 jobs, unemployment rate unchanged

The national labor market added in June 195,000 more jobs than it lost. The unemployment rate, however, was essentially unchanged from the prior month, as was the total number of unemployed Americans. Despite some welcome improvements in key indicators in recent months, unemployment and underemployment remain elevated, while the pace of job growth remains subdued relative to need.

“June was the 33rd-straight month of job growth recorded in the United States,” said John Quintero, a principal with South by North Strategies, Ltd. a research firm specializing in economic and social policy. “Over the past twelve months, the national economy has netted an average of 191,000 jobs, a pace that, while positive, is insufficient to drive unemployment down to pre-recessionary levels. Four years into a recovery, the unemployment rate remains well above the pre-recessionary level of 5 percent.”

In June, the nation’s employers added 195,000 more payroll positions than they cut. Gains occurred entirely in the private sector (+202,000), while government employers eliminated 7,000 more positions than they added, owing chiefly to reductions by state governments. Moreover, the payroll employment numbers for April and May underwent positive revisions; with the updates, the economy gained 394,000 jobs over those two months, not the 324,000 positions previously reported. Within the private sector, payroll levels rose the most in the leisure and hospitality services sector (+75,000, with 76.5 of the gain attributable to the accommodation and food services subsector), followed by the professional and business services sector (+53,000, with 72.6 percent of the gain

occurring in the administrative and waste services subsector) and the trade, transportation, and utilities sector (+45,000, with 82.4 percent of the gains occurring in the retail

trade subsector). Payroll levels fell the most in the manufacturing and information sectors (-6,000 and -5,000, respectively). Over the last year, the American economy gained 2.3 million more payroll positions than it lost,” noted Quintero. “The current average monthly rate of job growth—some 191,000 positions per month—is better than the average logged during the prior 12-month period, but it nevertheless is insufficient to close the nation’s sizable jobs gap anytime soon.”

Slack labor market conditions were evident in the June household survey. Last month, 11.8 million Americans (7.6 percent of the labor force) were jobless and seeking work. Both the unemployment rate and total number of unemployed persons essen-

tially were unchanged from the prior month. Also in June, the share of the population participating in the labor force rose to 63.5 percent, a rate lower than the one posted a year ago. On a positive note, more Americans were working in June compared to a year ago, and fewer persons were unemployed. At the same time, the share of the working age population with a job remained near the lowest figure recorded during the current business cycle. Last month, the unemployment rate was higher among adult male workers than female ones (7 percent versus 6.8 percent). Unemployment rates were higher among Black (13.7 percent) and Hispanic workers (9.1 percent) than among white ones (6.6 percent). The unemployment rate among teenagers was 24 percent. Moreover, 6.3 percent of all veterans were unemployed; the rate among recent veterans (served after September 2001) was 7.2 percent. At the same time, 14.2 percent of Americans with disabilities were jobless and seeking work (not seasonally adjusted).

Jobs remained hard to find in June. Last month, the underemployment rate rose to 14.3 percent. Among unemployed workers, 36.7 percent had been jobless for at least six months, and the average spell of unemployment was 35.6 weeks. The leading cause of unemployment remained a job loss or the completion of a temporary job, which was the reason cited by 52.3 percent of unemployed persons. Another 28.1 percent of unemployed persons were reentrants to the labor market, while 10.8 percent were new entrants. Voluntary job leavers accounted for the remaining 8.8 percent of the total.

“The June employment report contained some good news about the state of the

Legislative Update (Continued from Page 8)

[HR 954, WISE Investment Act](#), was introduced by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR). The bill adds a section to the WIA for a Small Business Liaison Pilot Program. *The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.*

[HR 1340, To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to authorize the Secretary of Labor to provide grants for Urban Jobs Programs, and for other purposes](#). This bill was introduced on March 21, 2013 by Rep. Chaka Fatah (D-PA). *It has been referred to the House Committee on Education and the*

Workforce.

[HR 1412 Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013](#). This act would allow veterans to receive greater access to job training. *Passed out of the House and is now in Senate Committee for Veterans’ Affairs.*

[HR 1436 Job Opportunities Between our Shores Act, “JOBS Act.”](#) This act amends the Workforce Investment Act to establish a pilot program for advanced manufacturing. *Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.*

[House Resolution 1747](#). To allow employers a credit against income tax as an incentive to partner with community colleges or other educational institutions to improve workforce development and job training for students, was introduced by New Hampshire Congresswoman Ann Kuster last week. No summary for the bill has been released and it has been assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Source: legislative@ncawdb.org

Regional Snapshot

July 2013

Quick Facts

Gender of Individuals Filing Initial Claims May 2013

Male	55%
Female	45%

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

Age Range of Individuals Filing Initial Claims May 2013

16-19	2%
20-24	12%
25-34	27%
35-44	20%
45-54	22%
55-64	14%
65 or Older	3%

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

Duration of Unemployment Insurance Benefits For 12 Months Ending May 31, 2013*

Carteret	16.9
Craven	16.2
Duplin	14.5
Greene	17.2
Jones	16.3
Lenoir	16.2
Onslow	16.2
Pamlico	15.4
Wayne	15.9

*Duration is the number of weeks
compensated for the year divided by the
number of first payments.

Employers With Most Ads * May 2013

	Volume
Lowe's	57
U.S. Marine Corp	36

Source: Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine

*Data represent labor demand, measured by
online advertised vacancies.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates*

Not Seasonally Adjusted

		May 2013	April 2013	May 2012
Carteret	Labor Force	31,518	32,521	34,102
	Employed	28,883	29,981	31,342
	Unemployed	2,635	2,540	2,760
	Rate %	8.4	7.8	8.1
Craven	Labor Force	43,119	42,536	43,671
	Employed	38,910	38,535	39,567
	Unemployed	4,209	4,001	4,104
	Rate %	9.8	9.4	9.4
Duplin	Labor Force	25,729	24,729	26,434
	Employed	23,391	22,508	24,005
	Unemployed	2,338	2,221	2,429
	Rate %	9.1	9.0	9.2
Greene	Labor Force	9,983	9,856	9,745
	Employed	8,919	8,887	8,791
	Unemployed	1,064	969	954
	Rate %	10.7	9.8	9.8
Jones	Labor Force	4,339	4,302	4,540
	Employed	3,957	3,918	4,023
	Unemployed	382	384	517
	Rate %	8.8	8.9	11.4
Lenoir	Labor Force	29,228	28,764	29,157
	Employed	26,407	26,127	26,280
	Unemployed	2,821	2,637	2,877
	Rate %	9.7	9.2	9.9
Onslow	Labor Force	69,089	68,553	68,514
	Employed	63,240	63,164	62,610
	Unemployed	5,849	5,389	5,904
	Rate %	8.5	7.9	8.6
Pamlico	Labor Force	5,420	5,308	5,485
	Employed	4,882	4,835	4,965
	Unemployed	538	473	520
	Rate %	9.9	8.9	9.5
Wayne	Labor Force	55,635	54,607	55,554
	Employed	50,646	49,953	50,744
	Unemployed	4,989	4,654	4,810
	Rate %	9.0	8.5	8.7
Eastern Carolina WDB	Labor Force	274,060	271,176	277,202
	Employed	249,235	247,908	252,327
	Unemployed	24,825	23,268	24,875
	Rate %	9.1	8.6	9.0
North Carolina	Labor Force	4,744,565	4,687,503	4,735,868
	Employed	4,320,014	4,290,057	4,293,559
	Unemployed	424,551	397,446	442,309
	Rate %	8.9	8.5	9.3
United States	Labor Force	155,734,000	154,739,000	154,998,000
	Employed	144,432,000	143,724,000	142,727,000
	Unemployed	11,302,000	11,014,000	12,271,000
	Rate %	7.3	7.1	7.9

Source: LAUS, Labor & Economic Analysis Division, NC Dept. of Commerce *May 2013 data are preliminary, while April 2013 data are revised, and May 2012 data have undergone annual processing. Does not apply to US data.

Eastern Carolina WDB Occupations With Most Ads* May 2013

	Volume
Retail Salespersons	133
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	126
Customer Service Representatives	108
Registered Nurses	96
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation & Serving Workers	84
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	71
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing, Except Technical & Scientific Products	71
Occupational Therapists	68
Insurance Sales Agents	62
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	52
Receptionists & Information Clerks	49
Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	48
Physical Therapists	44

Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine

*Data represent labor demand, measured by online advertised vacancies.

Unemployment Insurance Claims

	May 2013		May 2012	
	Initial Claims	Benefits Paid	Initial Claims	Benefits Paid
Carteret	181	\$399,665	230	\$507,912
Craven	347	\$705,779	332	\$674,786
Duplin	196	\$343,712	198	\$442,584
Greene	72	\$172,275	87	\$180,068
Jones	29	\$61,069	42	\$111,151
Lenoir	287	\$460,721	289	\$543,821
Onslow	413	\$729,669	507	\$831,649
Pamlico	38	\$78,052	32	\$80,422
Wayne	464	\$794,662	432	\$825,653

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

Individuals Receiving Benefits

	May 2013	May 2012	Yearly Change
Carteret	447	620	-173
Craven	737	717	20
Duplin	373	475	-102
Greene	203	231	-28
Jones	63	126	-63
Lenoir	527	628	-101
Onslow	729	932	-203
Pamlico	92	82	10
Wayne	841	883	-42

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

Eastern Carolina WDB Employment and Wages For 4th Qtr. 2012

	Number of Units	Total Wages
Natural Resources & Mining	489	\$42,732,872
Construction	1,508	\$110,109,867
Manufacturing	421	\$218,125,779
Trade, Trans. & Utilities	3,253	\$313,415,064
Information	158	\$17,798,954
Financial Activities	1,210	\$61,502,706
Prof. & Business Services	1,832	\$205,268,116
Ed. & Health Services	1,647	\$501,371,655
Leisure & Hospitality	1,417	\$85,190,676
Other Services	1,109	\$29,147,331
Public Administration	271	\$235,763,612

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

New Corporations

	May 2013	May 2012
Carteret	25	36
Craven	44	38
Duplin	13	11
Greene	2	4
Jones	1	1
Lenoir	17	13
Onslow	54	47
Pamlico	7	4
Wayne	26	27

Source: NC Dept of the Secretary of State

Data provided by:

Labor & Economic Analysis Division, North Carolina Department of Commerce
4329 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4329
Phone: 919-707-1500 Fax: 919-715-6866
Email: lead@nccommerce.com Website: nccommerce.com/lead

For additional information, please contact:

Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board Inc.
1341 S. Glenburnie Road, New Bern, NC 28562
Phone: 252-636-6901 Fax: 252-638-3569
Email: childers@ecwdb.org Website: www.ecwdb.org

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ECWDB Staff:

Tammy Childers, Executive Director
 Robert Kehres, Assistant Director
 Lisa Harvey, WIA Coordinator
 Trina Hale, Accounting Technician
 Debbie Simpkins, Fiscal Monitor
 Anita Bradley, Administrative Assistant
 Rita Garsak, WIN Coordinator

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 E-mail: admin@ecwdb.org
www.ecwdb.org

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One Stop/Work Ready Meeting
 at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
August 1, 2013, 6pm

Youth Council Meeting
 at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
August 8, 2013, 6pm

Program Planning Committee Meeting
 at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
August 15, 2013, 6:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting
 at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
August 22, 2013, 6:00 pm

Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board
 at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
September, 2013, 6:00 pm

Early Bird Registration
NOW OPEN!



October 16, 2013- October 18, 2013
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 Greensboro, NC

Early bird Registration fee is \$175, but only until **September 16, 2013!**

To find more details, highlights, and preliminary agenda information visit:

<http://www.nccommerce.com/wf/workforce-professionals/workforce-development-training-center/workforce-conference>