

July, 2014  
Inside this  
Issue:

ECWDB Honors Don Harris for 25 Years of Service	1
Board of Directors	2
Director's Corner	3
WIOA Signed Into Law	4
NCWorks Initiative Update	4
Governor McCrory Signs Legislation for Active Duty and Veterans	5
WIA Success Stories	6
Onslow Career Center Staff Member Makes a Difference	7
Third Grade Reading Linked to Career Readiness	8
Craven County Veterans Stand Down	9
Regional Snapshot	10
ECWDB Staff	12
Mark Your Calendars	12



On Thursday July 10, 2014 , at the New Bern Convention Center, ECWDB honored Don Harris for 25 years of service on the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board during the WDB / Constorium Meeting.

It was an emotional and commemorative meeting as Mr. Will Collins, Executive Director of NCWORKS presented Harris with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine certificate.

“Since it’s creation in 1963, The Order of the Long Leaf honors persons who have a proven record of service to the State of North Carolina or some other special achievement, and to others as a gesture of

friendship and good will. Upon being named to *The Order of the Long Leaf Pine*, the honoree receives a certificate and the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary, which is the special privilege to propose the North Carolina Toast in select company anywhere in the free world” (longleafpinesociety.org).

Dr. Ron Lingle and Onslow County Commissioner Jack Bright offered their remarks in honor of Harris.

Lingle described Harris as a good friend and role model that set a great example for job development. “ He is the face of the best interaction between the industry, community, military, and state machinery for job development that I have ever seen.” said Lingle.

Indeed, Harris’ leadership has set a great example for workforce development. In 2008, the “Don T. Harris Leadership Award” was established in honor of Mr. Harris’ dedication and commitment to the public workforce investment system.

The award continues to recognize outstanding individuals who serve as a volunteer by giving of their time, talent, and expertise, for the cause of improving the quality of lives of others through workforce development.

Carteret County Career Center Manager, Ralph Leeds, expressed his appreciation for Harris’ leadership and dedication, “Don’s leaving was a poignant reminder of how far the board has come through the years.” Leeds said. “And we truly have come a long, long way because, as Don always said; “we have the greatest staff”.

When asked, Don will tell you that his passion for helping others succeed is what contributed to his successful career. “People are the greatest asset of any organization.” said Harris. “It is my opinion that when you help people, you are following the direction that the Lord has laid out for everyone to accomplish.”



Career Center Locations

<b>Carteret County Career Center</b> 309 Commerce Avenue, Morehead City, NC 28557 Phone: (252) 726-7151	<b>Greene County Career Center</b> 818 Highway 91 North, Snow Hill, NC 28580 Phone: (252) 747-5689	<b>Onslow County Career Center</b> 106 College Plaza, Jacksonville, NC 28546 Phone: (910) 347-2121
<b>Craven County Career Center</b> 2836 Neuse Boulevard, New Bern, NC 28562 Phone: (252) 514-4828	<b>Jones County Career Center</b> 509 Highway 58 North, Trenton, NC 28585 Phone: (252) 448-4791	<b>Pamlico County Career Center</b> P. O. Box 185 Grantsboro, NC 28529 Phone: (252) 745-9934
<b>Duplin County Career Center</b> 192 Magnolia Extension, Kenansville, NC 28349 Phone: (910) 296-1478	<b>Lenoir County Career Center</b> 231 Highway 58 South, Kinston, NC 28502 Phone: (252) 527-6223 ext. 104	<b>Wayne County Career Center</b> 2006 Wayne Memorial Drive, Goldsboro, NC 27534 Phone: (919) 731-7950

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

<b>Aug 7 , 2014</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>NCWORKS Committee</b> <i>at the ECWDB offices in New Bern</i>
<b>Aug 21, 2014</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Executive Committee Meeting</b> <i>at the ECWDB offices in New Bern</i>
<b>Aug 28, 2014,</b> <b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Integrated Service Delivery Team Meeting</b> <i>at the ECWDB offices in New Bern</i>
<b>Sept 11, 2014</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>WDB/ Consortium Board Meeting</b> <i>at the ECWDB offices in New Bern</i>

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  
Carol Barron, Program Assistant

Communicate with Us!

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www.ecwdb.org



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Board of Directors

Officers

Joseph Wiggins, *Chief Elected Official*  
Mike Kraszeski, *Chairman*  
Carla Byrnes, *Vice Chairman*  
Fletcher Bizzell, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Carteret County

Paula Dixon, *Coastal Community Action, Executive Director*

Mike Kraszeski, *Atlantic Veneer, Vice President*

Dwayne Oglesby, *Fleet Readiness Center East, Organization & Workforce Planner & Analyst*

Myles Stempin, *Carteret County Economic Development, Executive Director*

Craven County

Bill Green, *BB&T, Vice President*

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

Julian Marsh, *New Bern Housing Authority, Executive Director*

Duplin County

Alex Asbun, *Vidant Duplin Hospital, Director of Health Care Programs*

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

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

Greene County

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

Judy Darden, *Darden Bookkeeping, Owner*

Jones County

Frank Emory, *Emory Construction, Owner*

Thelma Simmons, *Jones County DSS, Executive Director*

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

Lenoir County

Dr. Brantley Briley, *Lenoir Community College, President*

Bruce Parson, *Blind Shop, Owner*

Keith Montgomery, *West Pharmaceutical Services, Human Resources Manager*

Onslow County

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

Rick Stout, *Onslow County Schools, Superintendent*

Shannon Vitak, *Vocational Rehabilitation, Manager*

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

Fletcher Bizzell, *Glenoit LCC, Human Resources Manager (Retired)*

Tonya France, *SPX Transformer Solutions, Inc., Human Resources Mgr.*

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



www.ncvisioneast.org

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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, NCWORKS Career Centers, and partner services.
- Identify and implement effective employment and training strategies that result in employment opportunities for all citizens.

LABOR MARKET OVERVIEW

Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board

Civilian Labor Force Estimates\*

		April 2014	March 2014	February 2014	April 2013
Carteret	Labor Force	32,137	31,169	30,621	32,387
	Employment	30,324	29,112	28,523	30,012
	Unemployment	1,813	2,057	2,098	2,375
	Rate	5.6	5.6	6.9	7.3
Craven	Labor Force	40,681	40,595	40,171	41,706
	Employment	37,800	37,448	37,121	37,971
	Unemployment	2,881	3,147	3,050	3,735
	Rate	7.1	7.8	7.6	9.0
Duplin	Labor Force	24,839	24,679	24,086	24,122
	Employment	23,195	22,872	22,305	22,044
	Unemployment	1,644	1,807	1,781	2,078
	Rate	6.6	7.3	7.4	8.6
Greene	Labor Force	9,497	9,450	9,375	9,527
	Employment	8,792	8,758	8,727	8,630
	Unemployment	705	692	648	897
	Rate	7.4	7.3	6.9	9.4
Jones	Labor Force	4,247	4,244	4,197	4,321
	Employment	3,942	3,905	3,871	3,960
	Unemployment	305	339	326	361
	Rate	7.2	8.0	7.8	8.4
Lenoir	Labor Force	28,562	28,502	28,300	28,274
	Employment	26,565	26,391	26,232	25,819
	Unemployment	1,997	2,111	2,068	2,455
	Rate	7.0	7.4	7.3	8.7
Onslow	Labor Force	67,792	67,395	66,731	68,638
	Employment	63,705	62,779	62,293	63,614
	Unemployment	4,087	4,616	4,438	5,024
	Rate	6.0	6.8	6.7	7.3
Pamlico	Labor Force	5,022	5,049	5,080	5,157
	Employment	4,699	4,656	4,615	4,721
	Unemployment	323	393	465	436
	Rate	6.4	7.8	9.2	8.5
Wayne	Labor Force	54,278	54,251	53,801	54,136
	Employment	50,981	50,653	50,268	49,802
	Unemployment	3,297	3,598	3,533	4,334
	Rate	6.1	6.6	6.6	8.0

\*April 2014 data are preliminary, while other 2014 data are revised. April 2013 data have undergone annual processing.

Initial Claims

	April 2014	April 2013
Carteret	98	233
Craven	194	444
Duplin	103	292
Greene	61	75
Jones	14	43
Lenoir	160	258
Onslow	230	551
Pamlico	16	36
Wayne	213	459

Duration of Benefits

	April 2014	April 2013
Carteret	16.6	16.8
Craven	17.8	16.2
Duplin	17.2	14.8
Greene	19.0	17.0
Jones	17.3	16.6
Lenoir	18.5	16.3
Onslow	16.7	16.0
Pamlico	17.0	15.7
Wayne	17.8	15.8

Individuals Receiving Benefits

	April 2014	April 2013
Carteret	325	576
Craven	334	893
Duplin	215	462
Greene	112	190
Jones	40	77
Lenoir	292	545
Onslow	489	884
Pamlico	40	89
Wayne	406	920

Note: All data produced in this publication are generated by LEAD unless otherwise stated.

Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board | 252.636.6901 | admin@ecwdb.org

NC Department of Commerce | Labor & Economic Analysis Division | 919.707.1500 | lead@nccommerce.com





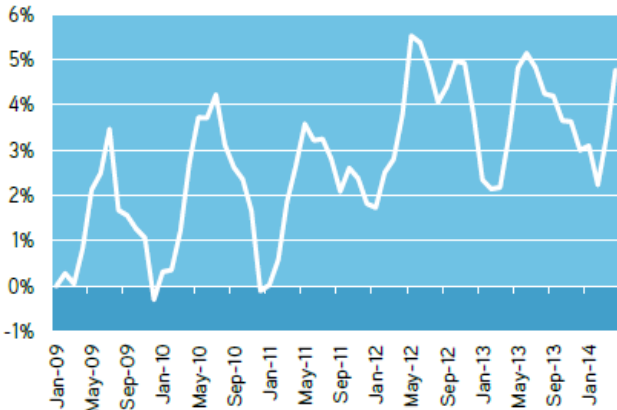
# LABOR MARKET OVERVIEW

Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board June 2014



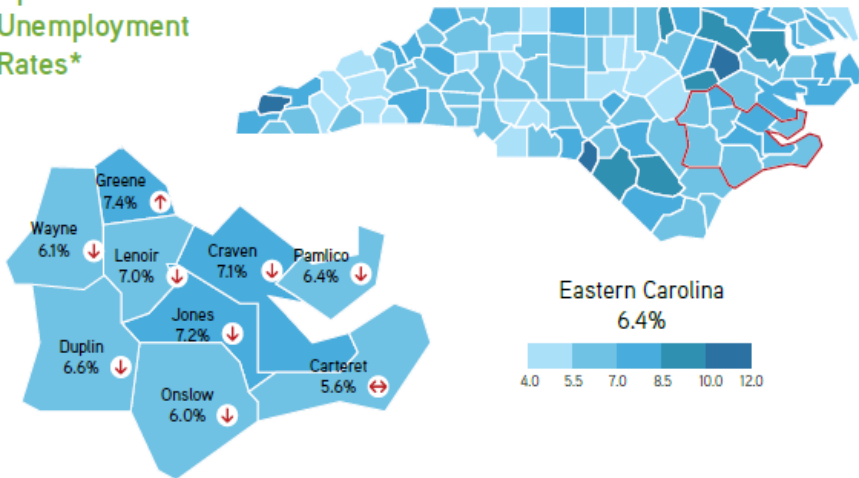
## Regional Labor Market Snapshot

5-Year Percent Change in Employment\*



Eastern Carolina Region

April 2014 Unemployment Rates\*



## Community Investment Report Top Announced Projects January 2014–March 2014

County	Company	Announced Jobs
Wayne	National Salvage & Service Corporation	30
Onslow	Biotest Pharmaceuticals Corporation	30
Pamlico	Dollar Tree Stores	15

### Who's Hiring

past 90 days from May 22, 2014

- Lowe's 163
- U.S. Marine Corp 137

### What Jobs

past 90 days from May 22, 2014

- Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers 510
- First-Line Supervisors, Retail Sales 443

Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online  
Note: All data produced in this publication are generated by LEAD unless otherwise stated.  
\*April 2014 data are preliminary, while other 2014 data are revised. All other reported data have undergone annual revision.

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## Trending

### UNEMPLOYMENT\*

April 2014

Eastern Carolina Total = 17,052

- Eastern Carolina 6.4%
- North Carolina 6.0%
- United States 5.9%

### REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT\*

Eastern Carolina Total = 250,003

3,429 More People Working in April than previous month

3,430 More People Working than same period 1 year ago

### CLAIMS TAKING ACTIVITY

Initial Claims Total = 1,089

9% Decrease in Claims in April than previous month

Benefits Paid Total = \$1,746,128

25% Decrease in Payments in April than previous month

Duration of Claims Down 2% to 17.4 in April vs. previous month

### INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING BENEFITS

Eastern Carolina Total = 2,253

19% Decrease in Claimants in April than previous month

### AVAILABLE JOBS

10,385 Jobs Posted Online over the past 90 days

200 Less Job Opening than same period 1 year ago

Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online

## Directors Corner

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to all of our new board members and thank you for agreeing to serve as a director on our board! Your expertise in workforce development is critical to the success of our board's mission and we look forward to your leadership!

As you will see on the first page, we honored long-time board member and friend, Mr. Don Harris who recently retired after serving on our board for over 25 years.

Don's stellar leadership, dedication, and commitment to workforce development has helped to guide our board which is recognized as one of the best in the state. Through the years, Don was consistent in sharing his views of how important it is to value your people and invest in them through quality education and job training services. This philosophy is core to the mission of our organization and will continue to guide us as we move into an exciting new program year filled with opportunity.

Program year 2013-2014 was a successful year of transition for our Career Centers and staff with changes in technology and service delivery through NCWORKS; and program year 2014-2015 is starting off even greater with the passing of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, WIOA.

WIOA will bring many improvements to the workforce development system as it focuses on streamlining programs and improving services for job-seekers and employers. As the plan's implementation phase moves forward, there will be a lot of work on the local, state and federal levels making it an exciting and busy time in workforce development.

To all of our board members, elected officials, partners, career center staff, and WIA service providers, thank you for what you do every single day to make this Region shine!

Sincerely,

Tammy Childers

Executive Director

## Welcome New Board Members

ECWDB welcomed new board members in 2014. We are pleased to introduce board members: Tonya France, Richard Stout, Shannon Vitak, and John Wilson.



**Ms. Tonya France**

Human Resources Manager

SPX Transformer Solutions, Inc.

County: Wayne



**Ms. Shannon Vitak**

Unit Manager

NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Kenansville

County: Onslow

Tonya France joins the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board with nineteen years of experience in human resources. The majority of her experience has been in manufacturing industries including steel making and power transformer production. She has a strong background in employee and labor relations managing both unionized and non-unionized environments.

She holds a Master's degree in Industrial and Labor Relations and her Bachelor's in Communications. She has worked in NC for the last seven years with SPX Transformer Solutions, based in Wayne County.



**Mr. Richard Stout**

Superintendent

Onslow County Schools

County: Onslow

Mr. Rick Stout serves as the Superintendent for Onslow County Schools. Mr. Stout has been a school administrator for more than 17 years, serving as a superintendent, assistant superintendent, associate superintendent, and principal at the high school, middle school, and elementary school levels.

Mr. Stout received a bachelor's degree from Atlantic Christian College. He earned both masters of education and education specialist degrees at East Carolina University and is in the process of completing course work for his doctorate in education at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.



**Mr. John Wilson**

Human Resources Manager

BSH Home Appliances Corp

County: Craven

Mr. John Wilson serves as the Human Resources Manager for BSH Home Appliances Corp, Originally from Knoxville Tennessee, he relocated to New Bern in July 2010 to join BSH.

Mr. Wilson has a background in Human Resources over 15 years of experience in Human Resources. He received his Bachelor Degree from Lincoln Memorial University.



## Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Signed Into Law



tools” to give workers better information about career prospects. It also gives cities and states greater flexibility in how they use federal money for training programs.

Mr. Obama, following recommendations presented in a six-month review of the program

led by Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., also announced a series of executive actions intended to strengthen job training, including a new requirement that federally funded programs disclose how many of their graduates find jobs and what they get paid.

The bipartisan approval of the job-training legislation on July 9 was a rare instance of Democratic and Republican lawmakers coming together to pass legislation during this election year.

Mr. Obama, addressing lawmakers in both parties who pushed for the legislation, said on Tuesday: “Let’s do this more often. It’s so much fun!”

For more information on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, see the following link: <http://doleta.gov/wioa/>

Source: [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

## NCWorks “1,000 in 100” Initiative Update

# NCWorks

1,000 COMPANIES in 100  
COUNTIES in 100 DAYS

Earlier this year, governor Governor Pat McCrory announced a new initiative, called NCWorks. NCWorks focuses on five steps that will connect NC employers to the NC employees with the last step including an initiative to visit 1000 companies in 100 counties in 100 days, called “1000 in 100”.

This statewide listening-and-learning opportunity will:

- Allow service delivery teams to hear as a group, rather than from individual program perspectives, about businesses needs
- Identify ways that North Carolina can better meet those needs so industries can, in turn, hire and retain our state's workers

- Provide the basis for ongoing, collaborative follow-up and service delivery on the local, regional and state levels.

Local teams made up of workforce partners will be visiting 10 companies in each county within 100 days. The information collected from the “1,000 in 100” initiative will be paired with other research to form the basis for possible policy, guideline or structural changes on how North Carolina delivers workforce services in preparation for the 2015 legislative session.

The tentative start date for company visits is mid--September and be will be completed by January 2015.

## Craven County Holds First Annual Veterans Stand Down



Despite early morning thunderstorms, about 30 veterans signed in during the first hour of Craven’s first-ever Craven County Veterans Stand Down at Stanley White Recreation Center in New Bern on Tuesday June 10, 2014.

The event was put on by the Veterans Employment Base Camp and Organic Garden and the Craven Career Center.

“The main purpose is to connect with homeless veterans and do outreach,” said Lovay Wallace-Singleton, the executive director of the base camp and organic garden group. “But, it has come to mean so much more. It is a way of veterans’ organizations connecting with civic organizations. It is also a way for certain nonprofit organizations that are assisting veterans to use a one-stop forum in order to service those veterans and find out what the local needs are.”

For some vets like Kenneth Carter of Beaufort, the Stand Down provided hope that the homeless Army vet might find a permanent place to live.

“I’m looking for information on benefits,” said Carter. “Right now, I’m homeless,” he said, adding that he stays “here and there and with friends and such.”

Through the Veterans Stand

Down, Carter was able to talk with representatives from of the Greenville Office of Veterans Administration Homeless Vets program.

Lindsey Arledge, supervisor of the homeless program for the Durham VA, said that the agency verifies that a vet is homeless and then looks for ways to assist through various program referrals.

She said they would look at the resources available in the vet’s area such as shelters and then possible permanent housing.

She said one program included housing vouchers in the Greenville area.

Many of the veterans who made their way around the various sites were like Jeff Padrick of Grantsboro. He is an Army vet from the early to mid-1980s who is employed, but looking for possibilities about veterans’ benefits.

Padrick has had his share of bad luck, working 11 years at Hatteras Yachts before being laid off. He lived on unemployment, went back to school and got a degree and now works on airplanes for Tradewinds Aviation in New Bern.

“I’m not homeless or anything, I just wanted to find out what is available,” he said of potential veterans’ benefits. He added that this venue afforded him an opportunity to find out answers to some of his questions.

Organizations such as the the Family Endeavors group from Jacksonville, a supportive services program for veteran families, provide a variety of services for

veterans. Their offerings include case management, help in obtaining VA benefits, emergency financial assistance and aid with reaching other public benefits.

Some of the groups on hand, housed under tents included the Craven Veterans Council; DAV Chapter 40 of Craven County; local American Legion and VFW posts; a black veterans group; Vietnam Veterans of America; the Division of Workforce Solutions; the Military Officers Association; and Military Missions in Action. The Military Missions group out of Fuquay-Varina is currently building a Heroes Home in Pamlico County for a disabled veteran and his family.

Also on hand was Richard Hansen, the disabled veteran outreach program specialist with the Craven Career Center, along with veteran employment supervisor Reeshema Walker.

Source: [www.newbernsj.com](http://www.newbernsj.com)



## Third-grade Reading Linked to College and Career Readiness

A recent analysis by MetaMetrics®, indicates the reading level of North Carolina third-graders is highly predictive of their readiness for college and careers after high school graduation. The data, taken from the Public School Forum's 2013 "Roadmap of Need," covers a broad range of socioeconomic, educational, and health and wellness metrics for all 100 counties in the state. MetaMetrics' analysis found a high correlation between many of the Roadmap metrics and ACT performance (as a proxy for college and career readiness).

The analysis also found significant gaps in reading performance among many NC counties. In roughly half of North Carolina's school districts, 32 percent or more of third-graders are not reading at grade level. The performance gap found across the state ranges from 12 percent of third-graders in Camden County who are not reading on grade level to 54 percent in Washington County. "That means that over half of third-graders in Washington County will struggle with understanding a well-known

children's book like Charlotte's Web, compared to only just over 10 percent in Camden County who will struggle with the same book," says Malbert Smith III, Ph.D., president and co-founder of MetaMetrics.

Smith believes earlier intervention can help decrease the performance gap.

While a great deal of attention has been given to required attendance at summer reading camps and potential retention for students who are struggling to read on grade level, less attention has been given to the early and periodic assessments that allow teachers and parents to intervene early when a student is struggling to read.

"By extending assessment tools to the start of kindergarten, we do not have to wait until the end of third grade to identify reading difficulties and intervene appropriately," Smith says.

According to MetaMetrics, putting students on the path to college and

career readiness will be best served by four interventions: early pre-kindergarten education, addressing summer learning loss, the smart use of digital personalized learning platforms, and implementing the Common Core State Standards.

"We need to invest in public education and in early childhood education," says the Forum's president and executive director, Keith Poston. "And we must continue to examine strategies to combat the gap between low-wealth and high-wealth counties."

The full MetaMetrics report can be accessed at [www.lexile.com/about-lexile/white-papers](http://www.lexile.com/about-lexile/white-papers).

The Forum's Roadmap of Need can be accessed at <http://www.ncforum.org/roadmap-to-need/>.

Source: [www.metametricsinc.com](http://www.metametricsinc.com)

## Governor McCrory Signs Legislation to Help Active Duty Members and Veterans



Active duty members, veterans and military spouses can have selected military training and past experience converted into college credit and/or professional licenses in North Carolina under legislation signed into law on July 10, 2014 by Governor Pat McCrory.

"Service members and veterans receive some of the best training in the world. This law gives them the opportunity to turn that training and experience into certifications and college credits that will help them get good-paying jobs in the civilian world," said Governor McCrory, who signed the bill into law at the Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh.

"This law will also provide North Carolina employers with well-disciplined and high-skilled workers who know a thing or two about how to get a job done and done well."

SB 761, which received strong

bipartisan support and not one "no" vote in either the House or the Senate, instructs the University of North Carolina and North Carolina Community College systems to develop programs that will convert

military training into college credits and the state's licensure boards into professional certifications and licenses. Already, a few programs have been developed to convert military training.

They include:

- Commercial Driver's License for truck drivers
- Information Technology Specialists' Certification
- ASE Certification for Vehicle Mechanics

Conversion programs for military trained law enforcement officers and paramedics are expected to be announced soon.

This new law also instructs the UNC and NC Community College systems as well as the state's licensure boards to work with the military to develop programs to fill any knowledge or skills gaps between military occupational training and

civilian license requirements. The law applies to active military, military spouses and veterans.

"This bill is a win-win," said Senator Ron Rabin. "It enriches our workforce, which attracts businesses to come into the state, while also helping the economy. Conservatives in the General Assembly have been trying to make the economy better in the state, and this bill aims to do just that. It also helps military personnel by creating an environment of appreciation. This is a military-friendly and economy-oriented bill."

Governor McCrory was joined by Senators Rabin, Pate, Clark and Daniel, Representative Whitmire, Major General Greg Lusk, Military Advisor Cornell Wilson, Veterans Affairs Director Ilario Pantano and members of the North Carolina National Guard at the Joint Force Headquarters for today's bill signing.

Source: [www.governor.state.nc.us](http://www.governor.state.nc.us)

## Fourth of July Funnies



"Oh, come on! Nobody brought a pen?"



## WIA helps Start a Career in Biotechnology



**Sherry Garner** spent 30 years as working in a local physicians office and love her job.

Although she attained

Bachelors of Science in Medical Technology at East Carolina University, Garner was left with little options in her field when the last physician retired.

“The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) stepped in to see if anybody wanted to be retrained and said they would pay our tuition. They thought the BioTech industry would be a good fit (for me),” said Garner.

Officials with the WIA covered Garner’s tuition at Lenoir Community College and at Pitt Community College where the non-traditional student started taking her first classes in Biotechnology.

“I switched over to Pitt and that’s when I got a glimpse of what I was really getting into. It was different than what I was used to,

but I found it an easier transition because I was familiar with the equipment and terminology,” said Garner.

Garner came to enjoy the Life Sciences and Microbiology but says a new internship at Metrics, Greenville pharmaceutical company, has also peaked her interest in the chemistry side of Biotechnology.

Garner took a tough situation and turned it into a new passion through her classes at Pitt Community College.

“I guess it has almost a futuristic feel to it and that excites me, that I’m going into something that before you could only dream of and, all of sudden, it’s reality now,” said Garner.

*Source: [pitcc.mycareerfocus.org](http://pitcc.mycareerfocus.org)*

## WIA Success Story– Santana



**Santana** was a single mom with an unemployment check as her only source of income. She decided it was time for a change and a new career field.

She was referred to the WIA Program at Greene County Career Center where staff helped her enroll in the Medical Office Program at Lenoir Community College.

Through hardwork and dedication, Santana balanced raising a child while also maintaining above a 3.5 GPA.

On May 13, 2014, she graduated with honors from Lenoir Community College and earned her Associate in Applied Science Degree in Medical Office Administration.

Santana is employed full time as a medical secretary for the Internal Medicine Office at Kinston Medical Specialists.

## WIA Success Story– Linda Loftin



Twenty-five years after graduating from high school, Linda Loftin decided to take a couple of classes at Lenoir Community College in 2010. The following year, she decided to attend college full time and obtain an Associate’s degree in Business Administration.

During her her studies, Loftin’s personal life became more difficult and she contemplated quitting school. With the encouragement of her WIA counselor, Mary Richardson, Loftin pushed through

and continued taking courses. “Mrs. Richardson said to me, ‘Linda, if you only can take one or two classes a semester just do that until you can take more. Stick with it, but just don’t quit.’ It was hard to take her advice, but I did,” said Loftin.

Loftin completed her degree in May 2014.

“My time at LCC has taught me one thing, besides it has the best business instructors in North Carolina, and that is endurance and persistence pays off.”

## Onslow County Career Center Staff Member Makes A Difference Volunteering



*Gail Horn posing with Shirley John, president of the Women Marines Association, at their Marine South Exposition booth, April 10*

For Gail Horn, dedication to our local communities goes far beyond working at the Onslow County Career Center. Through her many volunteer activities Gail continues to serve and provide support to the Jacksonville community.

Horn, a retired Master Gunnery Sergeant with 25 years of service, is an unsung heroine for her efforts with organizations like the Women Marines Association, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 16, Marine Corps League and the American Legion.

(Horn) is well known in the community and works tirelessly assisting veterans in need,” said Fernando Schiefelbein, operations specialist for Marine Corps Installations East.

Her experience providing career advice is reflected in some of the highlights of her military career.

While serving in the Marine Corps, Horn experienced the Japanese

culture during her tours in Iwakuni and Okinawa, Japan. She was also hand-selected to serve as an enlisted career counselor at Headquarters Marine Corps for the Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments. The position allowed her to travel to numerous countries providing career advice.

“We traveled to various parts of the globe and briefed Marines, as well as provided individual counseling,” said Horn. “You never realize how much you made a difference until years later when you meet them again and see.”

After retiring from the Marine Corps in 2009, Horn made the decision to remain in the Jacksonville area so her daughter could finish school there.

“It was important to me to allow her to finish school there, and the school’s newscast was enabling her to find her (passion in) photojournalism,” said Horn. “It also gave me an opportunity to finish my bachelor’s degree at Campbell University aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.”

Horn received the push she needed from community members Stephen Smith and the late Randy Reichler to get involved within the Jacksonville community.

“The way they supported individuals and freely gave of their knowledge and time was inspiring,” said Horn. “As such, I felt an obligation to pay it forward and became active in several veteran organizations.”

Currently, Horn is an active member for numerous organizations and is the secretary for the Women Marines Association, the post service officer for the Veterans of Foreign Wars post 9133 and has volunteered with the Relay for Life and the Museum of the Marine. In addition, Horn found her passion when she received the position as a Veteran Employment Representative.

“I realized I had found my calling and have developed great relationships with many of the businesses and veterans in this community,” said Horn. “(I enjoy) assisting my fellow man in improving their quality of life.”

Horn recommends for Marines getting ready to retire, to follow their passion and find a job they will love. “Don’t just look for a job, make a plan and look for a career,” said Horn.

If you know an outstanding retired or veteran Marine, contact Ashley Torres at [ashley.torres@pilotonline.com](mailto:ashley.torres@pilotonline.com) or 451-7403.

“Still Serving” presents a monthly piece about those veterans who continue to make an impact in our community.

*Source: [www.camplejeuneglobe.com](http://www.camplejeuneglobe.com)*