



March, 2017

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Closer collaboration, proactive branding, and a greater focus on data science education and talent development will propel North Carolina to the top of the emerging data economy, according to a new report published by the North Carolina Board of Science, Technology & Innovation (BSTI).

"North Carolina has significant assets to steam ahead in the data economy: marquee companies, strong centers and programs at the state's public and private universities, large numbers of workers and university graduates critical to the industry, and relevant national organizations..." according to the report, *NC in the Next Tech Tsunami: Navigating the Data Economy*.

The new report identifies North Carolina's many assets and advantages for companies that rely on the ability to successfully collect and manipulate data. (Find out more about those assets on EDPNC's website.) However, it also suggests areas for improvement. For example, despite the state's high ranking in important technology sectors, data professionals rank the state about 12th in the country for data economy leadership, the report says.

"The data economy can generate new, high-paying jobs in all industries, in all jobs, and in all areas of the state," said

Anthony M. Copeland, North Carolina's Secretary of Commerce. "We must ensure we have the educational and economic ecosystems in place to support these new jobs because diverse industries like manufacturing, agriculture, and health care all will require more sophisticated data skills from their employees."

Data science is not just for technology companies either, according to the report. North Carolina companies as varied as R. J. Reynolds Tobacco, Norfolk Southern Railroad, and General Electric use data for insights into customers, products, and operations.

The report describes the state's tremendous educational data assets at the community college, undergraduate and graduate university levels. Many global companies providing tools for the data economy such as SAS, IBM, Inmar and Red Hat reside in North Carolina. Other leading companies in the state's key life sciences sector such as Quintiles and Biogen, and in the critical financial sector like Bank of America and Fidelity Investments, rely on data to compete.

The report offers recommendations that include elevating the data economy to the top of state economic development priorities, increasing the number of data startup companies, creating a pipeline of data science literacy,

branding the state as the "Open Data" state, and increasing the amount of data science research. "Although North Carolina has tremendous data assets, we need to focus our efforts on connecting and branding them," says Scott Doron, project leader and associate director of the Office of Science, Technology, & Innovation, a division of the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

To create the report, BSTI partnered with the National Consortium for Data Science — a public/private collaboration housed at the UNC Chapel Hill Renaissance Computing Institute.



Cary, NC-based SAS is one of many high-profile players in the data economy with operations in North Carolina.

Source: 2017 Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

## Board of Directors

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### 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

- Create an integrated, seamless, and customer-centered workforce system.
- Engage business and community leaders in addressing workforce issues that promote strategies to improve education levels and basic workplace skills.
- Strengthen alliances with economic development to identify and address the workforce needs of current and future industries.
- Develop and 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.
- Build the capacity of the Consortium, Eastern Carolina WDB, staff, and NCWorks Career Center staff and partners.

## A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter containing articles on some of the great workforce development activities that are occurring throughout the region. What is very clear is that each article demonstrates two target groups –the employers and a pipeline of potential employees. There are also some common themes that are evident built upon innovation, collaboration, leveraging resources, addressing workforce skills shortages, and expanding partnerships to provide continued opportunities and investments targeted toward helping our students, job-seekers, and businesses continue to grow and thrive in the workplace.

On page five, you will read of one of the newest funding opportunities presented to us through the NC Department of Commerce's Maximize Carolina Sector grants, that will provide funding to employer groups facing talent shortages in high-demand occupations. The Funds will further advance industry sector strategies such as career pathways and apprenticeships. Brainstorming sessions are already occurring as this will be a great opportunity for this region to expand its efforts targeting our high growth sectors who are seeking to develop its pipeline of future workers.

What we all can agree on is the economic opportunities for this region are limitless! With employment rates projected to continue to rise, our regional and local partnerships remain focused on assisting companies in finding the qualified workers they need to meet their projected employment needs, while assisting students and job-seekers in preparing to participate in those opportunities. Examples of these efforts are also demonstrated in this newsletter as Career Fairs will be occurring this month in Carteret, Craven, and Lenoir counties. Additionally, Onslow County's education and economic partners, to include its businesses and the ECWDB will be participating in its annual Trades Day event at the end of the month.

In closing, a new board member recently ask me for my elevator speech. In a nutshell, I said something like the board's work involves partnerships with the local education, workforce and economic development, and business partners to ensure that our region has a qualified workforce who possess the skills needed to meet the growing employment needs of local employers. Thinking about it some, my best response could have been sharing our NCWorks tagline: Working together...we are connecting talent to Jobs!

Let us all continue to focus on the positive and bring out the very best in each other!

Blessings!

Tammy Childers

## 2016-2017 Board Work:

To ensure that the strategies and objectives outlined in the ECWDB Strategic Plan are met, the ECWDB committees, along with the committee's core objectives are listed below:

### Executive Committee:

1. Provide overall strategic direction for ECWDB and determine responsibilities of all committees
2. Oversee Personnel and Financial management of the ECWDB
3. Responsible for ongoing Board Development to ensure compliance with WDB By-Laws
4. Oversee the development of the strategic plan
5. Has and may exercise the authority of the Board in the management of the affairs of the organization between meetings

### NCWorks Career Pathways Committee:

1. Develop and review local program proposals for adult, youth, and dislocated worker services and recommend funding for WIOA programs
2. Identify training options and research best practices that addresses skills gap and training needs of the future and existing workforce
3. Establish performance measures, develop program policies, and conduct oversight of WIOA program operations
4. Review WIOA Training Provider applications for Certification
5. Engage local employers, community colleges, public schools, and other partners in the development and oversight of Career Pathways and WorkReady Communities initiatives

### NCWorks Business Services Committee:

1. Engage local employers in defining service expectations of NCWorks Career Centers
2. Certify NCWorks Career Centers and conduct oversight of NCWorks Career Center system operations, as it relates to business and job seeker services under an Integrated Service Delivery Model
3. Establish NCWORKS performance standards and review outcomes on a quarterly basis
4. Develop strategies to expand, educate, and promote the NCWORKS Career Center system across the region
5. Ensure NCWorks Career Centers are partnering with local economic development to address new and expanding industry needs

### Youth Council:

1. Identify strategies to improve business engagement and youth outreach efforts targeted toward disadvantage youth
2. Conduct oversight of local youth programs and certify eligible providers of youth services through a competitive procurement process
3. Identify and coordinate youth services throughout the region to leverage resources and address training needs and skills gap concerns of low income youth

## Eastern Carolina WDB & Partners Receive Health Sciences Career Pathways Certification

As North Carolina competes globally, its workforce and education partners must ensure that training for individuals matches the needs of employers. This need is fulfilled by career pathways—integrated systems of development programs that ensure the training individuals receive meets the present and future needs of businesses.



recognition of the Certified Health Science Pathway took place on February 8, 2017 at the NCWorks Commission meeting held at the NCSU McKimmon Center in Raleigh. Present to receive the certificate of approval were: ECWDB Executive Director Tammy Childers, Ms. Melanie Sanders, Caswell Development Center, Mr. Art Jackson, Greene County Economic Development, Ms. Allison Dees, Carteret County Schools, Ms. Bena Weires, Carteret Community College, Mr. Chris Bailey, Craven County Schools, Mr. John Shannon, Onslow County Schools, Ms. Renita Dawson, Wayne Community College and Ms. Jennifer Polk, Wayne County NCWorks Career Center.

In May 2015, the NCWorks Commission approved NCWorks Certified Career Pathways criteria to establish the standards for the development of career pathways across the state. This certification also ensures that enrollees have access to the best education, training, and work-based learning opportunities as they pursue

careers in high-demand occupations.

After two years of hard work and planning among the ECWDB, region's colleges and schools systems, key health care employers, the ECWDB received official notice that the region's Health Sciences Career Pathways application for certification was approved. Official

## Come Join US!!! Health Sciences Symposium/Career Fair — March 28, 2017

# DO YOU

HAVE WHAT IT TAKES FOR A CAREER IN

# HEALTH SCIENCES?

JOIN US TO FIND OUT!

# MARCH 28

CRYSTAL COAST CIVIC CENTER  
MOREHEAD CITY



**SPONSORED BY**

- Carteret Community College
- Coastal Carolina Community College
- Craven Community College
- James Sprunt Community College
- Lenoir Community College
- Pamlico Community College
- Wayne Community College
- Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board

### Health Sciences Symposium

Regional Health Care Employers  
**FUTURE JOB OPPORTUNITIES,**  
work place trends, and  
"must have" skills

## 10AM

Limited space available.  
RSVP with number of attendees  
(252) 636-6901

### Health Pathways Career Fair

COME AND VISIT  
with community colleges and  
health employers to  
**LEARN MORE**  
about education and  
employment in the region!

## 12-2PM

QUESTIONS? (252) 636-6901

## New Funds Available to Help Businesses Develop Skilled Talent

A new grant program for workforce development will provide \$1 million this year to develop talent pipelines for high-growth industries in North Carolina.

Maximize Carolina Sector grants, offered by the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Division of Workforce Solutions, will provide funds to employer groups facing talent shortages in high-demand occupations. The Funds will further advance industry sector strategies such as career pathways and apprenticeships. The grants are available for partnership groups who provide 15-35% of matching funds toward the project in emerging industry sectors, including information technology, energy, advanced manufacturing, environmental sustainability, aerospace, defense, analytics, industrial maintenance, health care, and hospitality/tourism.

"North Carolina's businesses now have a powerful new way to find and develop the employees they need," said N. C. Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland. "Governor Cooper promised to strengthen our businesses and build an economy that works for everyone, and this new grant program helps achieve that goal."

The new program encourages businesses to form innovative partnerships and to work together to support workforce training, hiring, and other approaches to improve regional economies. In order to qualify for funding, these partnerships must include multiple businesses and the local workforce development board at a minimum.

Grant funding will be determined based on the number of businesses in the partnership and the partnerships are required to raise matching funds.

Each partnership must complete an application and will receive a response from the Division within two weeks. Interested employers should contact their local workforce development board for more information.

The division anticipates awarding between 16 and 30 grants annually, depending on available funds. Funding for the Maximize Carolina Sector grants comes from the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

For more information visit [nccommerce.com/workforce](http://nccommerce.com/workforce).

*"Success is where preparation and opportunity meet."*

*-Bobby Unser*

## Second "Craven Works" Job Fair Aims to Boost Employment

Job seekers and their future employers will connect next month at the second annual "Craven Works."

The event will run from noon to 6 p.m. on March 21 at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center. Sponsored by the Craven 100 Alliance, Craven Works is free to participants and businesses.

Last year's event drew 52 employers and roughly 1,100 job seekers according to county economic development director Timothy Downs. Downs said the first Craven Works connected hundreds of people with jobs, including a top baker at Bengal Hospitality. "There were a lot of stories like that," he said. "We did not end up getting a final count and that's something we hope to do this year so that we can say X number of people got jobs."



Another change attendees can expect is a Craven Works "Welcome Center" where organizers will ask them about where they are in the job-seeking process. Attendees who came prepared with resumes could go straight to meet with employers. Those needing more information can first connect with staff from NCWorks, Craven Community College, Craven County Schools, Interfaith Refugee Ministry, and ECWDB to get job and resume advice.

Businesses who have already signed on for Craven Works include Hatteras Yachts, Bengal Hospitality, Lowe's, New York Life, State Employees' Credit Union, the City of New Bern, and NCWorks Career Center.

"There has been a disconnect between the folks that need a better job, and a job in general, and the folks that need employees," Downs said. "There are help wanted signs all over our county and we want to make sure we're connecting the employers with employees."

For more information or to register as a participating business, visit [CravenBusiness.com/CravenWorks](http://CravenBusiness.com/CravenWorks).

Source: *New Bern Sun Journal*

## James Sprunt Community College Working To Train Future Technicians

Four years ago, Smithfield Hog Production, formerly Murphy Brown, approached James Sprunt Community College about forming a partnership to train diesel and heavy equipment technicians. The goal was to address changes in technology and provide a source of on-going training for current technicians in a state-of-the-art classroom training environment.

With its first semester completed, the Diesel and Heavy Equipment technology program is on its way to helping train technicians for the diesel trucking industry. To build the facility, JSCC officials received funding from a variety of sources including Duplin County (\$519,800), Golden LEAF Foundation (\$1,000,000), Tobacco Trust Foundation (\$100,000), along with other sources.



There is a diploma, associate's degree and a certificate offered in the program. Students currently enrolled in the diploma programs will finish classes in August of 2017 and graduate in May of 2018.

Once students come into the program, they will be knowledgeable enough to start as entry-level technicians in a shop and, due to the demand for technicians, the students

should not have trouble finding employment after graduation.

The Diesel and Heavy Equipment program has students learning about over-the-road trucks that deliver freight, agriculture equipment and heavy equipment. Future plans are to move into agriculture and heavy equipment as well. High school students in the Career & College Promise Program in Duplin, Greene and Lenoir county schools are taking a preventive maintenance class. In the spring, students will take a hydraulics class. There is currently a waiting list to enroll in the program.

*Source: Duplin Times*

## Commercial Driver License Program Continues Making Career Opportunities



WIOA Participants, Demetrice Haddock and Kimerby Thompson, training for a new career

Craven Community College introduced its commercial driver license (CDL) program in July 2015. Since then, the CDL program has held nine day and two evening classes. There are 82 graduates with approximately 95 percent of these men and women employed according to Jeffrey Schulze, program coordinator.

Craven CC's CDL program is offered by its Workforce

Development division and prepares students for careers driving a variety of commercial trucks from local-delivery panel trucks to long-distance 18-wheel freight transporters. The 7-week CDL Class A class instructs students to operate tractor trailers.

Daniel Roberts graduated from the second CDL class in September 2015. He was not new to truck driving. "As a young lad I spent several summers traversing our great nation in the passenger seat of an 18-wheeler, I guess you can say I have a case of wanderlust that started many moons ago," said Roberts. Prior to deciding to become a truck driver, he worked in home improvement and emergency response in Carteret County.

Roberts returned to the CDL classroom last week to talk with students about his experiences as a professional truck driver. Roberts started his professional driving career in January 2016 with Roehl

Transportation with headquarters in Marshfield, Wisconsin. He has hauled building materials across 38 states. Roberts said of the program, "What I'd say to anyone who is thinking of the CDL class and driving a truck...Go for it! Driving a truck is a great career with a stable industry and is the backbone of the country."

Students 18 years of age or older must complete some pre-requirements, including possessing a valid N.C. driver's license, passing a U.S. Dept. of Transportation DOT physical examination, obtaining copy of driving record and passing a DOT drug screening test.

A CDL-B (straight truck) class begins March 11. The next day CDL-A class runs March 27-May 19. The next night/weekend CDL-A class runs March 28-July 29. For more information visit [www.cravencc.edu/](http://www.cravencc.edu/) CDL or call WFD at 252-638-7248.

*Source: New Bern Sun Journal*

## Wayne Community College Ranked 9th in NC3 Certifications

Wayne Community College was one of the top certification centers in the nation in 2016. WCC was ninth in the NC3 (National Coalition of Certification Centers) national ranking of educational institutions based on the number of certifications their students earned last year. The college has finished in the “Top 10” every year since 2014 when NC3 first started tracking certification numbers. Each year it has topped the previous year, starting with 373, improving to 480 in 2015, and jumping to 641 in 2016.

WCC currently offers 23 different NC3 certifications in its Automotive, Mechanical Engineering, Industrial Systems, Computer-Integrated Machining, and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning programs. The newest certification, launched in November, is Advanced Measuring Instrument which is the result of a collaboration between WCC, other

NC3 partner institutions, and corporate partners Starrett and Snap-on.

“The NC3 certifications earned by our students give them a competitive edge in the job market,” explained WCC Transportation Department Chair Craig Foucht. “These certifications attest to the programs’ quality over a comparable program at other institutions by showing employers our students were trained on and can properly operate high-quality equipment from industry partners such as Snap-on and Starrett.” “Anything that gets our students hired over the competition is worth pursuing, which is why we are a part of NC3,” he said. WCC is one of five locations that host NC3 Train-the-Trainer national conferences. Foucht and Automotive Instructor Kevin Jordan are two of just 12 NC3 Train-the-Trainer instructors in the nation.

NC3 is a network of education providers and corporations that supports, advances and validates new and emerging technology skills in the transportation, aviation and energy industry sectors. It was established to address the need for strong industry partnerships with educational institutions in order to develop, implement, and sustain industry-recognized portable certifications that have strong validation and assessment standards.

Wayne Community College is a public, learning-centered institution with an open-door admission policy located in Goldsboro, N.C. As it works to develop a highly skilled and competitive workforce, the college serves 14,000 individuals annually as well as businesses, industry, and community organizations with high quality, affordable, accessible learning opportunities, including more than 70 college credit programs.

Source: [wcc.edu](http://wcc.edu)



**Sponsored by**

**Lenoir Community College and the NCWorks Career Centers in Lenoir, Greene, and Jones Counties**

**March 15, 2017**

**9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon  
LCC Student Center**

**The public is invited to attend!**



**NCWorks**  
career center



**Lenoir**  
Community College

For more information, call  
252.527.6223, ext. 111 or 312

## Onslow County Schools Recognized for Graduating Students Global Ready

Onslow County Schools and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools were recognized at the February State Board of Education meeting for achieving Global-Ready designation. They are the first two school districts to be recognized for having the programs and tools to ensure students graduate prepared to live, work and contribute in an interconnected, global world.

Onslow County Schools received the Global-Ready Model Designation, which means the district consistently implements systems and processes to support global readiness. The district is a leader for other schools to replicate or model. Global readiness is embedded in the school's culture, and well-developed, cutting edge practices show consistent, high-level student impact.

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Chief Academic and Digital Learning Officer Maria Pitre-Martin congratulated district

leadership on their accomplishments saying, "These districts are leading the way in demonstrating the importance and effectiveness of global education practices in graduating students who are globally engaged and productive citizens."

In 2013, State Board of Education members approved five commitments to help ensure students graduate globally prepared. These commitments – teacher support and tools, leading-edge language instruction, new school models, district networking and recognition, and strategic international relationship – led to a new focus on global education and recognition efforts that supported the State Board's vision statement.

One of the outcomes was to develop criteria that define what it means to be a Global-Ready District or School. The Global-Ready District implementation rubric was adopted by the State Board of Education in May 2015 and embraces the tenets to provide:

- K-12 world language opportunities for all students, and pathways for teachers and administrators to achieve State Board recognized badging;
- career-ready employer requirements;
- global school partnerships; and
- local school board resolutions and plans on global education.

Additional information on the Global-Ready District Designation process and the State Board of Education Global Education initiative is available on [www.dpi.state.nc.us/globaled/](http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/globaled/)



## Craven County Schools Expands Advanced Manufacturing Career Pathway

On June 2, 2016 the Golden Leaf Foundation awarded Craven County Schools \$520,000 through its Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative. The purpose of this grant is to provide funding to Craven County Schools to expand career pathways in Advanced Manufacturing.

Through partnerships with B/S/H/ Home Appliances and Craven Community College, Craven County Schools implemented an Advanced Manufacturing program at West Craven High School in 2015. The grant now allows Career and Technical Education to expand courses within the Advanced Manufacturing program with mechatronics and welding curricula that replicate employer environments. Mechatronics involves the integration

of pneumatics, electronics, robotics, programmable logic circuits, and automation.

The Advanced Manufacturing pathway has been implemented to help prepare students for careers with local and regional manufacturers. The employment need is great as there are more employees at retirement age than potential new hires with the required skill levels available to take their place. Also, today's advanced manufacturing environments are much different than 1950's era factories.

Advanced processes and technology require employees to have advanced skillsets. The courses being implemented will give students the opportunity to learn those higher level skillsets as well as earn industry

recognized credentials such as the Certified Production Technician Certification, Siemens Mechatronics Certification, and the Career Readiness Certificate. After completing courses, students will have the opportunity to continue their education through the advanced manufacturing program at Craven Community College, apply for future apprenticeship opportunities in the region, and/or enter into the workforce with industry desired skills. The grant award is a part of a larger STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Technology) initiative in eastern North Carolina to implement strong industry driven STEM courses to high school students.

*Source: Craven County Schools*

## Public School Dropout Rate Improves In 2015-2016

North Carolina's public high school dropout rate improved slightly in 2015-16, according to data compiled by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. As reported in the *2015-16 Consolidated Data Report*, which was presented to the State Board of Education Feb. 2, the state's dropout rate ticked down to 2.29 percent from 2.39 percent the previous year. In 2015-16, 10,889 students dropped out, compared to 11,190 students the previous year.

State Board of Education Chairman Bill Cobey said he was pleased the state's dropout rate improved, continuing a long-term trend of gains. "Every initiative we pursue as a Board has the ultimate goal of graduating all students career and college ready. It is critical that we continue to make our public schools relevant to students so that they will see the value of staying the course and graduating with a high school diploma – an important predictor for future success."

Except for the 2014-15 school year, when the high school dropout rate edged up by 0.11 percentage points, the state's dropout rate has declined every year since 2006-07 and has improved by more than half since that

year, when the rate was measured at 5.24 percent.

The annual dropout rate measures the number and percentage of students who drop out during a single school year. Some of these students may return to school the following year and complete high school while others may drop out multiple times.

Other key findings of the *2015-16 Consolidated Data Report* show that:

- Students dropped out most frequently at 10th grade (30.2 percent), followed by 9th grade (28.3 percent).
- The number of high school students dropping out decreased at all grade levels. Dropout rates for Hispanic and Pacific Islander increased while all other racial subgroups decreased.

- Males accounted for 61.6 percent of reported dropouts, which was down slightly from the 62 percent reported last year.

Attendance was again the reason most often cited for dropping out, accounting for 46.5 percent of all dropouts. Leaving to enroll in a community college came in second at 11.1 percent, which was down from 15.8 percent in 2014-15. That

decrease is attributable in part to a policy change by the State Board in 2015 to exclude from dropout counts those students who leave high school to enroll in adult high school programs at community colleges. As a result, 307 students from 40 school districts were not included in the Enrollment in a Community College dropout count. If such students should drop out of the adult high school program, their former school district must count them in the next dropout count.

In considering the annual dropout rate, it is critical to note that this rate is not the same as the four-year cohort graduation rate. The cohort graduation rate follows a class of students, starting in ninth grade, and measures the percentage of students who graduate four years later. North Carolina reported a four-year cohort graduation rate for the class of 2016 of 85.9 percent, a record high for the state. Compared to the dropout rate, the four-year cohort graduation rate is considered a more comprehensive picture of students' persistence and high school completion.

The full report including state, district and charter high school dropout counts and rates for 2015-16 is available at [dpi.state.nc.us](http://dpi.state.nc.us)

## Jones Senoir High School Youth Program Making a Difference One Studet at a Time

The WIOA In-School Youth Program has provided a tremendous service to the students at Jones Senior High School. Jones Senior has a small student body, so there is a ripple effect from the encouragement and support that the Program participants receive because it eventually impacts the entire student body. The Program, which began in 2013, has provided services for approximately 200 students and contributed in excess of \$200,000 to the Jones County economy.

Most of the students that have

successfully completed the Program and graduated have enrolled in post-secondary education, entered the military or entered the workforce.

Diane LaBlanc recently informed ECWDB about a graduate of the In-School Youth Program who exemplifies the success of students enrolled in the Program. Ms. LaBlanc received a phone call from a student who has been in the program since September, 2014. He completed his work for his high school diploma on January 20, 2017 and will graduate in June, 2017.

He was hired by Coastal Beverage in Pollocksville, working 40 hours per week at a salary of \$9.50 per hour with full health benefits after 30 days and a 401K after 90 days. His job responsibility is loading delivery trucks and preparing packages for shipment.

The student commented to Diane that "it was the WIOA Program, and specifically the work experiences that you placed me in that made this possible...thank you SO much!"

Source: Jones County Schools

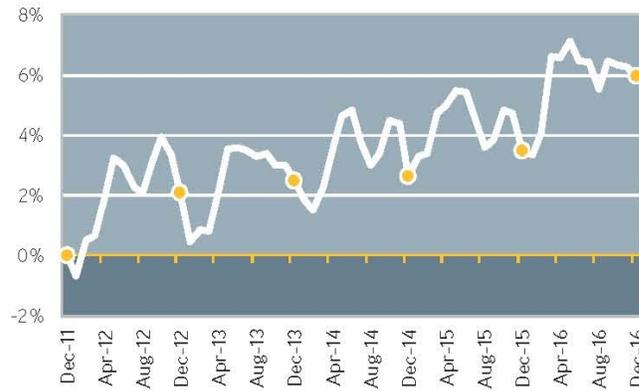
# LABOR MARKET OVERVIEW

Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board

February 2017

## Regional Labor Market Snapshot

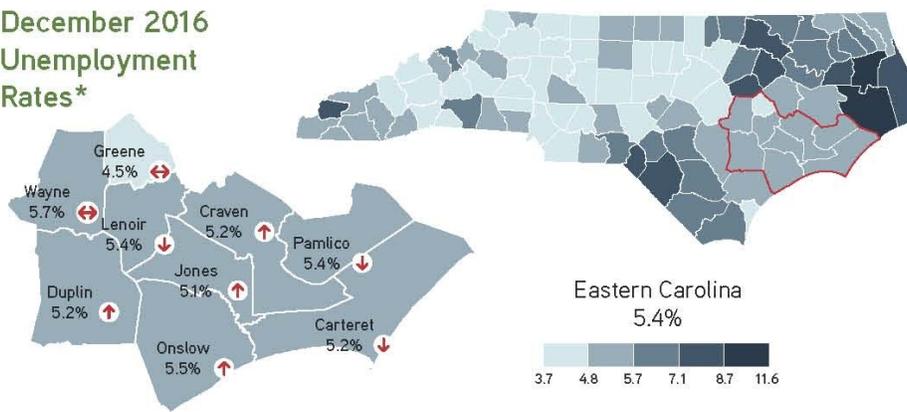
**5-Year  
Percent Change  
in Number  
Employed\***



Eastern Carolina  
Region

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

## December 2016 Unemployment Rates\*



## Community Investment Report Top Announced Projects 3rd Quarter 2016

County	Company	Announced Jobs
Wayne	U-Play Corporation	88

### Who's Hiring

past 90 days from Jan. 30, 2017

The Dollar General	229
State of North Carolina	218
Lowe's	123
Soliant	113

### What Jobs

past 90 days from Jan. 30, 2017

Registered Nurses	605
First-Line Supervisors, Retail Sales	377
Retail Salespersons	294
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	242

Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online

Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online

\*December 2016 data are preliminary, previous month's data are revised while all other data have undergone annual revision. All data produced in this publication are generated by LEAD unless otherwise stated.

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. For more information, please visit <http://www.nccommerce.com/lead/lmo>.

## Trending

### UNEMPLOYMENT\*

December 2016

Eastern Carolina Total = 14,343

	Current	Previous
Region	5.4%	5.3%
NC	4.9%	4.8%
US	4.5%	4.4%

### REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT\*

Eastern Carolina Total = 252,497

722 Fewer People Working  
in December than previous month

5,915 More People Working  
than same period one year ago

### METRO JOB GROWTH\*

Goldsboro Total = 42,300

No Change in Jobs  
in December than previous month

Jacksonville Total = 49,900

300 Fewer Jobs  
in December than previous month

New Bern Total = 45,100

No Change in Jobs  
in December than previous month

### TAXABLE RETAIL SALES

Eastern Carolina Total = \$480,777,048

3.0% Higher  
than same period one year ago

Source: NC Dept. of Revenue  
Note: November 2016 data most current  
available at time of release.

### ONLINE JOB ADS

6,987 Online Advertised Vacancies  
over past 90 days

1,907 Fewer Vacancies  
than same period one year ago

Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online

# LABOR MARKET OVERVIEW

Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board

## Civilian Labor Force Estimates\*

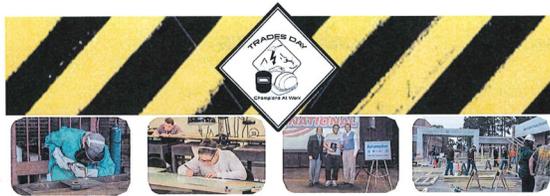
		December 2016	November 2016	October 2016	December 2015
Carteret	Labor Force	31,252	31,518	31,798	30,417
	Employed	29,619	29,924	30,289	28,669
	Unemployed	1,633	1,594	1,509	1,748
	Rate	5.2	5.6	4.7	5.7
Craven	Labor Force	42,144	42,122	42,133	41,091
	Employed	39,954	39,953	39,945	38,806
	Unemployed	2,190	2,169	2,188	2,285
	Rate	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.6
Duplin	Labor Force	26,727	26,875	26,807	26,245
	Employed	25,344	25,520	25,335	24,765
	Unemployed	1,383	1,355	1,472	1,480
	Rate	5.2	5.0	5.5	5.6
Greene	Labor Force	9,543	9,528	9,808	9,362
	Employed	9,116	9,099	9,159	8,886
	Unemployed	427	429	649	476
	Rate	4.5	4.5	6.6	5.1
Jones	Labor Force	4,579	4,571	4,665	4,479
	Employed	4,346	4,346	4,355	4,229
	Unemployed	233	225	310	250
	Rate	5.1	4.9	6.6	5.6
Lenoir	Labor Force	27,908	27,805	29,347	27,563
	Employed	26,392	26,263	26,487	26,008
	Unemployed	1,516	1,542	2,860	1,555
	Rate	5.4	5.5	9.7	5.6
Onslow	Labor Force	65,145	65,360	64,792	63,374
	Employed	61,571	61,863	61,443	59,717
	Unemployed	3,574	3,497	3,349	3,657
	Rate	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.8
Pamlico	Labor Force	5,457	5,462	5,433	5,317
	Employed	5,162	5,159	5,163	5,017
	Unemployed	295	303	270	300
	Rate	5.4	5.5	5.0	5.6
Wayne	Labor Force	54,085	54,157	54,918	53,547
	Employed	50,993	51,092	51,125	50,485
	Unemployed	3,092	3,065	3,793	3,062
	Rate	5.7	5.7	6.9	5.7

December 2016 data are preliminary, previous month's data are revised while all other data have undergone annual revision.

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner."

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Join us as we discover the vocational talents of Onslow and Jones County High Schoolers. Trades Day gives these students the opportunity to be recognized for their talents and allows them to showcase their skills. They compete in Automotive, Construction, Drafting, Electrical, Masonry, and Welding. For the first time this year, we are adding Culinary to the competition.

## Please join us at the 11th Annual Trades Day

**Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 8:00am**  
Coastal Carolina Community College

You can make a difference for these students by donating gifts to be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of each category. Sample donations are tools of their trades, gift cards, or safety gear.

For more information contact Lisa Murabito by calling (910) 347-3141 ext. 251  
or at [BusinessServices@jacksonvilleonline.org](mailto:BusinessServices@jacksonvilleonline.org)



## NCWorks Career Center Locations

### Carteret County

**NCWorks Career Center**  
309 Commerce Avenue,  
Morehead City, NC  
28557  
Phone: (252) 726-7151

### Greene County

**Greene Career Center**  
818 Highway 91 North  
Snow Hill, NC 28580  
Phone: (252) 747-5689

### Onslow County

**NCWorks Career Center**  
461 Western Boulevard  
Jacksonville, NC 28546  
Phone: (910) 347-2121

### Jones County

**Jones Career Center**  
509 Highway 58 North  
Trenton, NC 28585  
Phone: (252) 448-4791

### Pamlico County

**Pamlico Career Center**  
P. O. Box 185  
Grantsboro, NC 28529  
Phone: (252) 745-9934

### Craven County

**NCWorks Career Center**  
2836 Neuse Boulevard  
New Bern, NC 28562  
Phone: (252) 514-4828

### Lenoir County

**NCWorks Career Center**  
231 Highway 58 South  
Kinston, NC 28502  
Phone: (252) 527-6223  
ext. 104

### Wayne County

**NCWorks Career Center**  
2006 Wayne Memorial  
Drive, Goldsboro, NC  
27534  
Phone: (919) 731-7950

### Duplin County

**NCWorks Career Center**  
192 Magnolia Extension  
Kenansville, NC 28349  
Phone: (910) 296-1478

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>April 6, 2017,<br/>6:00 pm</b> | <b>NCWorks Business Services Committee<br/>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</b> |
| <b>April 13,<br/>2017, 2:00pm</b> | <b>NCWorks Career Pathways Committee<br/>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</b>   |
| <b>April 20,<br/>2017, 6:00pm</b> | <b>Executive Committee Meeting<br/>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</b>         |
| <b>May 4, 2017,<br/>6:00 pm</b>   | <b>ECWDB/Consortium Meeting<br/>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</b>            |
| <b>May 18, 2017,<br/>6:00 pm</b>  | <b>Youth Council Meeting<br/>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</b>               |
| <b>June 1, 2017,<br/>6:00 pm</b>  | <b>NCWorks Business Services Committee<br/>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</b> |
| <b>June 8, 2017,<br/>6:00 pm</b>  | <b>NCWorks Career Pathways Committee<br/>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</b>   |
| <b>June 15, 2017,<br/>6:00 pm</b> | <b>Executive Committee Meeting<br/>ECWDB Offices, New Bern</b>         |

## ECWDB Staff:

- Anita Bradley, Administrative Assistant
- Tammy Childers, Executive Director
- Trina Hale, Accounting Technician
- Lisa Harvey, WIOA Coordinator
- Robert Kehres, Assistant Director
- George Kramer, Business Services Consultant
- Joanne Payne, Program Assistant
- Debbie Simpkins, Fiscal Monitor
- Erin Ananiam-Gentile, Career Pathways Specialist

## Communicate with Us!



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An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. (TTY) 1-800-735-2962 (Voice) 1-800-735-8262