

Communicate with Us!

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

ECWDPA Annual Appreciation Luncheon
at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center
May 14, 2004, 9:30 am—1:00 pm

Youth Service Provider Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
May 20, 2004, 10:00 am

NC Commission on Workforce Development
at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh
May 26, 2004

Youth Council Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
June 1, 2004, 6:00 pm

Women's Empowerment Conference
at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center
June 2, 2004, 9:00 am—4:00 pm

NC State/Local Meeting
at the Quality Inn Appalachian Conference Center
in Boone, NC
June 9-10, 2004

Adult & Dislocated Worker Provider Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
June 10, 2004, 10:00 am

JobLink Chartering Committee Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
June 10, 2004, 6:00 pm

WIA Oversight Committee
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
June 17, 2004, 6:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
June 24, 2004, 6:00 pm

ECWDB/Consortium Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
July 1, 2004, 6:00 pm

SETA Conference
at the Radisson Hotel in Lexington, KY
September 19-22, 2004

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Congratulations to Monique and family on their new addition!



Mya Faith Grannum was born on April 24, 2004.

One Stop by Franko



"Why did you leave your last job, Mr. Jones?"



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

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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

~Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

President Bush's New Agenda for WIA

On April 5, 2004, President Bush announced actions that could result in major changes of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs during a speech at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina. The proposal that Bush outlined would alter the local focus of the Workforce Investment Act and could result in the consolidation and streamlining of WIA programs outside of the current reauthorization process.

The NAWB (National

Association of Workforce Boards) is concerned that this proposal could drastically impact the workforce investment system at the local level, including the role of workforce development boards.

Bush's proposal provides no new funding, seeks to double the number of people trained, and cut \$300 million in administrative costs.

"I fully understand that there are people who hurt here," the President said. "Industries like the textiles, and furniture manufacturers



are struggling...that is an issue we've got to deal with."

President Bush's visit to Charlotte to announce the initiative was part of a fund-raising drive that brought in \$1.55 million.

Source: www.nawb.org and www.wral.com

National One-Stop Day

The Local Workforce Coalition is calling on their members to support "National One-Stop Day" by inviting Congressional Members to local One-Stop Centers during the week of May 24-31, when they will be in their home districts for Memorial Day Recess.

This is a perfect opportunity for your local Congressional Members to visit your Center and become familiar with the value of One-Stop services

for citizens, businesses, and the local economy. The "Guide for Congressional Visits to One-Stops" provides useful information and guidance for arranging a successful Congressional visit to your One-Stop Center. This guide can be found at: http://www.nawb.org/pdf/visit_guide.pdf

The Local Workforce Coalition, which includes the National Association of Counties (NACo), National Association of Workforce

Boards (NAWB), U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), and National Workforce Association (NWA), will be tracking these visits so that it can conduct appropriate follow-ups in Washington and share success stories nationally.

Please visit http://www.nawb.org/survey_m/one_stop_day.htm to let the NAWB know your plans and offer support.

Source: www.nawb.org

Hurricane Isabel Employment Program

Hurricane Isabel hit Carteret County in September of 2003. The Hurricane Employment Program was funded by the U.S. Department of Labor in November 2003.

Carteret County had its first participant begin work December 1, 2003 at the Employment Security Commission. His duties are

to help coordinate, enroll participants, and monitor the Hurricane Isabel program.

Since then, sixteen other participants have been enrolled, all working with the National Park Service in Harker's Island as carpenters and carpenter helpers. There are three women and fourteen men enrolled. The majority were commercial fisherman and people that

worked for Marinas and fishing camps, which were destroyed or damaged and had to close for repairs.

As of May 5, 2004, the National Park Service has hired nine of the participants as carpenters or helpers. Their pay ranges from \$14.53 to \$19.32 per hour.

Submitted by: Susan Johnson, Carteret County JobLink

VISION:

Our vision is a world class workforce meeting the demands of the 21st Century workplace.

MISSION:

Our mission is to develop a comprehensive workforce system throughout eastern North Carolina that results in a highly skilled, productive workforce.

VALUE ADDED:

We add economic value to our communities by ensuring that quality education, job training, and employment opportunities are available thereby improving the quality of life for our citizens throughout the region.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- Expand and promote the JobLink Career Center system across the region to insure access by all citizens
- Identify and implement effective employment and training strategies that results in employment opportunities for economically disadvantaged adults, youth, and dislocated workers
- Engage business and community leaders in addressing workforce issues and promote strategies to improve workplace skills
- Implement a community awareness plan that promotes the WDB and its services
- Support the efforts of other organizations and institutions through collaborative partnerships that further enhance the WDB's initiatives



Synergy:
the result is greater than the sum of individual capabilities

Chairman's Report: Making Ends Meet—Connecting Job Seekers and Employers

Making ends meet. When we consider this statement, we probably think of balancing our budget, living off what we earn, or simply surviving in difficult times. Most of us have been there at one point (*or many points*) in our lives. For many, it's a day-to-day struggle. For others, it is a new phenomena. For a limited few, the ends meet regularly and without worry.

But when we look at making ends meet within the context of job seekers and employers, we may ask, how do we achieve that goal, or whose responsibility is it? As you know, it's a shared duty and we all have plenty of work to do when it comes to achieving that goal. Each workforce development partner, be it the Community College, Department of Social Services, Employment Security Commission, Public Schools, Vocational Rehabilitation, or the Workforce Development Board, has a critical role to play in making ends meet. We all play a vital role in connecting job seekers and employers.

Within the workforce development system, we have all worked hard to build North Carolina's JobLink Career Center System, where job seekers and employers are supposed to connect. Unfortunately, our best efforts have not made North Carolina's JobLink Career Centers the Nation's Premier One-Stop System. What a shame, our citizens deserve our very best when it comes to accessing employment and training services and providing a trained workforce for business. No one agency is at fault, as each operates under its own set of rules and regulations. Quite frankly, only when the Governor and our state leadership (as in the cases of such States as Florida, Michigan, and Texas) mandate that all workforce development funding be consolidated at the State level, will we begin to move our system forward. Until then, multiple funding streams, bureaucratic systems, and competing priorities, will continue to produce less than our best results.

Each day, hundreds of individuals visit their local JobLink Career Center seeking services and training or employment opportunities that can help them make ends meet. Our job is to make sure that happens. Training our incumbent and future workforce is the best investment that we can make in North Carolina's economy. Despite the unique challenges facing each of our workforce agencies, we must not lose sight that we all represent North Carolina's Workforce Development System—JobLink.

In making ends meet, many of our customers face an uphill battle. Those trying to balance JobLink staffing and budgets are working hard to achieve that goal; but for our customers, it's their economic survival. As President Bush said in Charlotte on April 5, 2004, "I fully understand that there are people who hurt here." That is an issue that we have to deal with. I would like to challenge all of our JobLink partners to work together like never before in making our JobLink Career Center system the best that it can be. Let's keep in mind, that by helping job seekers and employers connect, that we are helping our customers to make ends meet.

Let's begin today in making our JobLink system the Nation's premier One-Stop. Our customers and businesses deserve our very best. One way of demonstrating commitment to the JobLink system, is by participating in the National One-Stop Day during the week of May 24-31. I urge each of our JobLink partners to invite elected officials, community leaders, and local businesses to visit their local JobLink Career Center to experience first-hand the quality services that are available to job seekers and employers. Let's show our communities that we mean business when it comes to the bottom line—making ends meet.

By: Phillip M. Prescott, Jr., ECWDB Chairman

WIA Training Activity

PY 2003-2004 Planned vs. Actual Enrollments (actual data as of 5-4-04)

WIA Service Provider	Program	Planned Enrollments	Actual Enrollments
Carteret Community College	Adult	50	51
Carteret County Schools	In-School Youth	61	64
Coastal Carolina Community College	Adult	88	85
Craven County Schools	In-School Youth	75	54
Dobbs School	In-School Youth	48	52
ECWDB Local Area	Incumbent Worker	NA	135
ESC	Adult	50	54
ESC	Hurricane Isabel	NA	18
ESC - Jacksonville	DW	44	55
ESC - Morehead City	DW	26	22
ESC - New Bern	DW	50	47
Greene County Schools	In-School Youth	30	24
Greene Lamp, Inc.	Out-of-School Youth	125	125
James Sprunt Community College	Adult	179	192
James Sprunt Community College	DW	165	168
James Sprunt Community College	Out-of-School Youth	32	26
Jones County Schools	In-School Youth	27	19
Lenoir Community College	Adult	150	159
Lenoir Community College	Out-of-School Youth	50	52
Lenoir Community College	DW	291	285
Lenoir County Schools	In-School Youth	69	67
Pamlico Community College	Adult	81	69
Pamlico Community College	DW	22	17
Wayne Community College	Adult	150	121
Wayne Community College	DW	143	128
Wayne Community College	Out-of-School Youth	99	108
TOTALS		2,105	2,197

Program	Planned Enrollments	Actual Enrollments	Program	Planned Enrollments	Actual Enrollment
Adult	748	731	Out-of-School Youth	306	311
DW	741	722	Incumbent Worker	NA	135
In-School Youth	310	280	Hurricane Isabel	NA	18

WIA: PY 2003 Exit & Quarter Dates

The last exit date for PY2003 performance will be March 31, 2004.

The keying deadline for PY2003 performance will be July 30, 2004.

By that time, all supplemental data, credentials, skill attainments and diploma/equivalents must be keyed for our Local Area to receive credit on your PY2003 performance.

Provided by: Lisa Harvey, MIS Coordinator

Cost-Effective WIA Services

On May 6-7, ECWDB staff attended a two-day Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Financial Expenditure Forum sponsored by the North Carolina Division of Employment and Training (DET).

With an expected increase in North Carolina's WIA funds, the two days were filled with Local Areas from across the State sharing best practices in regard to enhancing WIA services to customers through local JobLink Career Centers.

Joe McCarthy, ECWDB Youth Services Coordinator, represented our Local Area on a panel addressing Youth Services. The networking and information-sharing proved to be invaluable as we discussed strategies for ways to make the most cost-effective and efficient use of our WIA resources. This summer, the Local Area is planning a WIA service provider staff retreat to review policies and discuss strategies for enhancing our WIA services through the JobLink Career Center System.

Submitted by: Tammy Childers



Fiscal Monitoring Assistance

It is imperative that we receive all invoices in a timely manner for accurate reporting to the Department of Commerce's Division of Employment and Training (DET) and the United States Department of Labor (USDOL). In accordance with the terms of our contract, all budgets, invoices and reports must be submitted as required by the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc. (ECWDB). Instructions for submitting invoices are addressed in Issuance 2002-1 dated July 24, 2002. As stated in the issuance, monthly invoices and supporting documentation are due by the 15th of the month following the invoice period. This policy was discussed in detail at the Financial Management training session held in the ECWDB offices.

Provided by: Jessie Bode, Fiscal Monitor

	TOTAL	Carteret	Craven	Duplin	Greene	Jones	Lenoir	Onslow	Pamlico	Wayne	A Wayne
NUMBER OF "VISITS"	76,463	12,755	25,796	1,396	1,590	446	5,295	3,356	395	5,064	20,370
NEW	76,364	12,755	25,796	1,392	1,557	434	5,259	3,349	395	5,061	20,366
RETURNING	99	0	0	4	33	12	36	7	0	3	4
SERVICES											
Assessment/Testing	1,756	93	375	6	55	6	490	219	82	36	394
Assessment Interview	2,864	254	129	14	44	1	202	14	91	50	2,065
Assigned Case Manager (WIA)	141	0	1	14	8	1	38	0	77	0	2
Career Counseling	1,116	4	199	48	31	19	458	262	92	0	3
Career Information	2,393	2	910	30	52	27	354	940	75	0	3
Career Search	988	0	16	11	43	17	617	233	45	1	5
Counseling - Group Session	270	0	6	1	86	0	158	0	4	0	15
Counseling - Individual	2,028	6	332	85	116	179	1,055	64	62	1	128
Dislocated to Non-Dislocated Worker	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Interviewing Skills	703	2	611	0	2	10	30	33	14	0	1
Job Development Contacts	2,418	387	927	37	16	8	127	141	1	218	556
Job Listings	2,002	0	0	12	302	55	770	860	2	0	1
Job Seeking Skills Workshop	627	18	100	1	0	6	465	37	0	0	0
JobLink Registration	5,705	1,329	1,524	43	414	45	638	13	144	345	1,210
JobLink Visit	15,029	2,055	4,582	811	978	193	2,476	45	214	321	3,354
Non-Dislocated to Dislocated Worker	22	0	0	0	4	0	18	0	0	0	0
Obtained Employment	2,488	506	1,148	2	1	2	20	0	0	84	725
Placed in a Job	5,276	796	2,062	20	6	2	11	0	1	1,322	1,056
Placed in Training (Federal/State/Local)	572	2	31	8	60	0	308	157	1	0	5
Placed in Training (WIA)	225	4	42	0	10	2	22	0	138	0	7
Provide Labor Market Information	26,608	2,337	16,192	151	38	18	198	77	14	2,314	5,269
Referred from Community Colleges	1,042	1	0	0	1	8	25	999	8	0	0
Referred from DSS	238	1	8	2	24	19	109	64	11	0	0
Referred from ESC	745	67	593	1	0	54	11	13	6	0	0
Referred from Other	422	0	2	0	2	8	8	401	1	0	0
Referred from VR	11	0	0	0	1	0	2	7	1	0	0
Referred from WIA	30	1	0	3	1	0	22	2	1	0	0
Referred to a Job	72,321	16,517	25,735	403	314	65	478	508	7	5,119	23,175
Referred to Community Colleges	1,056	12	328	1	141	44	395	117	18	0	0
Referred to DSS	48	2	15	0	3	13	8	3	4	0	0
Referred to ESC	295	0	2	4	101	25	113	49	1	0	0
Referred to Job Corps	45	10	2	2	1	1	26	0	0	0	3
Referred to Other	501	10	269	1	7	64	98	39	13	0	0
Referred to Other Educational Services	181	8	89	17	1	22	36	7	1	0	0
Referred to Other Federal/State/Local	1,297	4	1,223	10	1	0	58	0	0	0	0
Referred to Veterans Services	337	3	333	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Referred to VR	79	35	18	1	6	2	11	2	4	0	0
Referred to WIA	426	104	1	3	47	5	170	3	93	0	0
Resume Preparation Assistance	1,139	81	135	20	25	11	319	180	6	17	345
OUTCOMES											
Completed Training	424	0	0	0	20	7	238	145	14	0	0
Finished School	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Got a Job	8,272	1,279	3,119	20	34	23	233	379	23	1,400	1,762
Incarcerated	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Moved	56	0	0	0	0	1	0	55	0	0	0
Other	268	0	1	0	1	0	92	171	3	0	0
Refused to Continue	39	0	0	0	0	0	6	32	1	0	0

Based on data from NC JobLink MIS: 30,227 "Individuals" served during this period.

NC Unemployment Rates Drop Below National Average

According to the Employment Security Commission (ESC), North Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March dropped 0.8 percentage points to 5.2 percent, down from 6.0 percent in February. This marks the first time that North Carolina's unemployment rate has fallen below the national average since September 2000.

Data from the US Census Bureau estimated that there was an increase of 29,997 workers, while the state also saw a decrease of 32,570 in the number of individuals employed.

"The number of people reported as unemployed in March, 219,381, is

the lowest since April 2001," said ESC Chairman Harry E. Payne Jr. "The 5.2 percent unemployment rate is the first time it has dropped below the national average since September 2000. This rate reflects an increase in jobs in most industries that has been occurring since this time last year."

Over-the-month employment gains, based on seasonally adjusted data, occurred in several industry sectors. The largest net increase was in the trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities sector, which saw an increase of 4,300 (0.6%) jobs. Leisure and hospitality services gained 1,400 (0.4%) jobs.

On the down side, the manufacturing

sector, which has shrunk by 150,000 jobs since the beginning of the last recession in March 2001, lost an additional 2,900 (0.5%) jobs between February and March (after seasonally adjusted data). Employment was also lower in the information sector (down 800 jobs or 1.1%).

"Although the unemployment rate will most likely bounce around as the economy recovers, the trend of decline has continued," said Payne. "Job growth returned to overcome losses in the textile and apparel sectors that have been affected the most by national trade policies."

Source: ESC of North Carolina

Unemployment Rates as of March 2004

Source: Employment Security Commission LMI

County	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
	March 2003	March 2003	March 2004	March 2004
Carteret	28,971	6.1%	29,103	5.0%
Craven	37,129	5.5%	37,163	4.0%
Duplin	22,487	7.1%	22,628	5.8%
Greene	9,331	5.9%	9,448	5.5%
Jones	4,749	6.1%	4,716	3.9%
Lenoir	29,050	7.3%	28,850	5.1%
Onslow	50,413	6.2%	50,802	4.4%
Pamlico	5,567	4.4%	5,570	2.9%
Wayne	50,889	5.8%	50,495	4.5%
Eastern Carolina Local Area	238,586	6.2%	238,775	4.7%
State of NC—not seasonally adjusted	4,159,051	6.4%	4,160,508	5.3%
State of NC—seasonally adjusted	4,190,928	6.4%	4,192,063	5.2%
National—not seasonally adjusted	145,801,000	6.2%	146,525,000	6.0%
National-seasonally adjusted	145,818,000	5.8%	146,650,000	5.7%

March Unemployment Rates Drop in All N.C. Counties

According to the Employment Security Commission, unemployment rates fell in all 100 N.C. counties, as well as all Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Labor Market Areas. It is the first time since March 1994, when ESC began collecting this data, that this has occurred. The rates in this release are not seasonally adjusted.*

"This unprecedented news is certainly welcome and shows that our economy and job climate are improving steadily," Gov. Mike Easley said. "While the unemployment numbers will remain volatile due to federal trade policies, we

are clearly trending in the right direction. We must continue making the necessary investments in education and infrastructure to keep North Carolina's business climate competitive and strong. There is still much work to do."

Vance County had the state's highest unemployment rate at 11.2 percent in March. Camden County had the state's lowest unemployment rate at 2.4 percent.

The five counties receiving the highest amount in unemployment insurance benefits in March were: Mecklenburg, \$8.1 million; Wake, \$6.5

million; Guilford, \$4.4 million; Forsyth, \$3 million; and Rowan, \$2.6 million.

In March, \$100.2 million was paid to 115,895 individuals statewide in regular unemployment insurance and extended benefits, compared with \$97 million paid to 129,221 individuals in the previous month.

*Not seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates show employment and unemployment conditions at the time the data were collected. The rates do not take into account seasonal fluctuations and generally are not used in determining the significance of economic trends.

Source: ESC of North Carolina

Craven Community College is Rewarded for Military Ties

Craven Community College has a military connection that dates back to its inception nearly forty years ago. The school recently received a Golden Award for Partnership and a Platinum Award for Excellence from the state division of community colleges for that cooperative relationship, said Craven Community College President Scott Ralls.

The Craven County Committee of 100 recognized this relationship at a recent dinner honoring two Cherry Point Generals scheduled to leave this summer. Dean Wayne Forbush, head of the Havelock campus, spoke at the event honoring Gen. Maj. Robert M. Flanagan, Commander of Marine Corps Air Bases Eastern Area, and Maj. Gen. John G. Castellaw, Commander of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. Ralls cited these Generals as particularly helpful in furthering its military relationship.

The college opened a new Institute of Aeronautical Technology just outside Cherry Point's main gate this spring. Dean Forbush said that there are 325 active duty Marines and sailors now attending Craven Community College, with another 300 family members attending, and at the Havelock campus, they make up a significant portion of the student body.

Forbush said that the mini-mester program was designed for the military personnel who routinely deploy and need customized learning schedules. The mini-mester program condenses a sixteen week course into eight weeks with two, rather than one, class meetings a week. The school has also expanded distance education programs for those with non-traditional work schedules.

The future offers programs and curriculum even more customized for military personnel, said Forbush. A 2+2 engineering program, beginning in the fall of 2004, will be offered in partnership with N.C. State University. In 2005, the program is expected to expand to offer a bachelor's degree in engineering from NCSU with students never having to leave Craven County. Forbush said the college hopes to expand the program and is now in discussion with the Naval Air Depot and NCSU about the possibility of offering master and doctorate level engineering programs.

Source: Sue Book, Sun Journal

Lenox China Expands in Lenoir

In a 2002 consolidation plan for North Carolina, Lenox China closed a plant in Oxford, North Carolina and moved thirty jobs and production capacity to Lenoir County. The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners approved an Economic Development Grant to Lenox China, totaling \$40,000.00 to be paid in one installment.

The Lenox China plant in Lenoir County added 50,000 square feet of manufacturing space and is prepared to produce new product lines with the existing machinery and equipment. The addition of new product lines will increase employment from 273 full time employees to 373 full time employees, resulting in a total increase off 100 full time employees.

Source: Oscar Herring, Lenoir County Board of Commissioners

WCC Holds Annual WIA Banquet

On Thursday April 28, 2004, the Wayne Community College Out-Of-School Youth Program held its third annual WIA Awards Banquet. Denece P. Berry, WIA Coordinator, and Lea Thornton, WIA Case Manager, hosted the event. Jimmie Ford was the Master of Ceremonies, and Lisa Phelps, an instructor in the Basic Skills Department, was the keynote speaker. Roy White, Vice President of Continuing Education for WCC, gave the closing remarks. The theme for this year's banquet was "The Sky is the Limit." Over 125 guests attended the event. Some of the distinguished guests who attended included Youth Council members Jerome Shepard, Dr. Curtis Rains, Courtney Patterson and Joe McCarthy, the WIA Youth Coordinator for the ECWDB.

The event was held for WIA participants to show our appreciation for all of the hard work and dedication during the past school year. The banquet also awarded plaques of appreciation to the Work Experience employers, daycare providers and transportation providers for their invaluable services to the WIA program.

This year, the WCC WIA program had 23 Adult High School graduates and 6 GED graduates. Students were also honored for making the Honors and Scholars list during the past year as well. Some other categories that were awarded were for *Occupational Skills Training*, *Outstanding WIA Work Experience* and *Outstanding Participation in the WIA Program*. New this year, the WIA program honored the teachers of the Basic Skills Department by having the students' vote for whom they thought was an excellent teacher. The results were a tie for the Adult High School Program with the awards going to Penny Nelson, an English and Reading teacher, and to Lisa Phelps, an English and History teacher. Donna Moore was selected for the Basic Skills Learning Center Lab. The banquet also honored two students with the *Student of the Year Award*. The faculty and staff of the Basic Skills Department voted on this award and the recipients were Latoria McClarin and Robert Royal. The most prestigious award of the night was the *Outstanding Achievement Award* awarded to two of our 2004 graduates, Keisha Karr and Alan Spurling. Keisha and Alan were awarded this honor for their hard work and dedication in pursuit of their High School Diploma and their active participation in the WIA program.

It was wonderful evening and we wish to thank all of those who attended. We look forward to another successful year and many more accomplishments in the WIA program. The date for next year's banquet has been set for Thursday, April 21, 2005.

(clockwise)

Denece Berry; Allen Spurling receives "Outstanding Achievement Award"; Denece Berry presents "Outstanding Achievement Award" to Keisha Karr; Pavielle Ingram receives "Work Experience Award"; Latoya Stover receives "Outstanding Work Experience Award"; Laura Pelt is recognized for Honor's Roll; Latoria McClarin receives "Student of the Year" award



Submitted by: Lea Thornton, WIA Case Manager

Camp Lejeune Job Fair

The Camp Lejeune Job Fair, which was sponsored by Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station New River and Coastal Carolina Community College, was held on April 7, 2004. The event was attended by 107 employers and 3,000 job seekers. There was a wide spread of employing agencies in attendance, looking to fill openings nationally, regionally, and locally. Although the job positions ranged widely from avionics to store managers, there were a predominance of law enforcement agencies, who find Marines to be excellent recruits for existing openings.

Source: Jeff Nardo, Coastal Carolina Community College

NAWB Forum 2004: "The Global Economy and the US Workforce"

On March 14, 2004, the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) held their annual conference in Washington, D.C. Former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, and President Clinton's first Secretary of Labor, Robert Reich, came to the same stage to discuss "The Global Economy and the U.S. Workforce." The event was moderated by former Congressman Steve Gunderson. Gingrich and Reich discussed the changing world and the role workforce education and training must play in America's response. There were over 2,000 workforce development professionals in attendance.

Gingrich encouraged the workforce investment community to prepare workers to compete in this very new world; promoting 24-7 learning, on-line education, mentoring and teams. He stressed the importance of transforming unemployment into an education tool, recognizing that the structures of the past are simply inadequate for the challenges of today.

Both speakers encouraged the rural Workforce Investment Boards to pursue new paths to rural economic development. Gingrich suggested rural economic growth might start at home. "See who is creating jobs today and help them grow," he said. "Second, answer the question of how do you grow the quality of life in your area." He suggested challenging residents with long commutes to take advantage of technology, which "enables many of the same workers to connect to the world in small town America." Gingrich pointed out that a recent article in *The Washington Post* showed that 38 percent of all people living in the D.C. area are now self-employed professionals.

Reich suggested the rural workforce boards begin with an audit strategy. "Do an audit of the businesses in your area to see who is creating jobs," he said. "Then do an audit of your technology infrastructure and what is needed to attract today's workers. Inventory your existing assets such as building space, so you can make the case to companies that you have facilities available. Look at your local schools, and see what can be done to improve them. And finally, inventory your workforce so you know the human capital gaps—and begin to address them."

Gingrich and Reich, through their presentation at NAWB, suggested that there are fundamental conclusions on which we should agree:

- Education and training is the foundation for creating and preserving quality jobs in America today.
- Outsourcing is an opportune target, but not really the culprit for our domestic challenges.
- The global economy is here to stay; the real question is how we respond.

You may view the entire event off the internet. Go to: <http://www.c-span.org> and type "Newt" into the video search box in the top right corner and the link will appear.

Source: Steve Gunderson, former Congressman



FYI...

Southern Growth Survey

Southern Growth launched its annual on-line survey to poll Southerners on their attitudes regarding global trade and immigration and their effect on the region. The survey includes ten questions on trade, immigration, and states' and communities' roles in responding to globalization.

To take part in the survey, go to: <http://www.southern.org/survey.shtml>

Results will be announced at the "Globally Positioning the South" conference on June 13-15, 2004 in Oklahoma City.

Source: www.southern.org

Free Financial Planning

Wi\$e Up Web is a website that was specifically designed to help workforce development clients with financial planning. This site is aimed towards women ages 22 to 35 years of age, but has resources useful to many populations.

It offers an on-line eight module curriculum for site registrants on topics like budgeting, planning, life insurance, and mortgages. It also has numerous useful links to other financial planning resources. The site has been developed and maintained by the University of Texas for the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor. The site can be found at: <http://www.utdallas.edu/student/womenstr/wiseup/>

Source: www.WorkforceUSA.net

Report on MEP Centers & the WD System

A new report, *Building Successful Relationships in Economic & Workforce Development: MEP Centers & the Workforce Development System*, details the nature and extent of relationships that exist between Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Centers and their workforce development partners across the country. Included in the report are findings from these surveys and interviews, short descriptions of selected examples of MEP/workforce development collaborations, and a set of recommendations for leveraging further collaborations. The paper was written by Mark Troppe, from the National Center on Education and the Economy, and Martha Reesman, from the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce.

To view the report, visit: <http://www.workforceusa.net/uploads/FINALrpt-external.pdf>

Source: www.workforceUSA.net

ESC Lays Off Workers

The state Employment Security Commission announced that it will lay off 120 workers by the end of April. Most of these layoffs will be part-time employees. Commission spokesman Andrew James said the number could rise.

These cuts occur as high unemployment affects many families across North Carolina. The displaced workers, who rely heavily on the ESC's services, will be asked to make more use of the computers to file for benefits and search for work.

ESC officials say that they're spreading the 120 losses among the 92 local offices across the state. The ESC of North Carolina has 1,800 full-time employees.

Source: *The Associated Press*

Report Indicates NC's Rural Economy Needs Science & Tech Policies

North Carolina's economy has been hit by high levels of unemployment following thousands of job losses in recent years. The latest report, from the U.S. Department of Commerce, on the state's science and technology indicators offers some valuable information.

According to the report, the state is second in the country in having people who have recently earned science and engineering degrees. However, it is 43rd in terms of those who have earned a high school diploma.

Also, only 22.4 percent of the state's population has a bachelor's degree, ranking it among the ten worst states in the nation. It is perturbing that NC has slipped from 23rd in the nation to 40th in just three years.

The economy of North Carolina can be discussed in a two-fold manner. On one hand, the state's three metropolitan areas, as well as some smaller metro areas, experience solid rankings and robust figures. This is good news for about five million of the state's 8 million residents. On the other hand, for the remaining three million, the state is ranked in the last third of the grid for unemployment rate, percent of population over the poverty level, and per capita personal income.

It is imperative that legislatures look into issues that could positively affect the 3 million people who are being left behind economically. Most states across the nation have included science and

technology policies as an integral part of economic development. The report says science and technology assets will play a big role in creating jobs as businesses seek competitive advantage.

Source: *Triangle Business Journal*

Economic Impact of Military Bases in NC

According to a recent study, the military industry has an \$18 billion annual statewide economic impact. The study was prepared for the N.C. Advisory Commission on Military Affairs, which makes recommendations to the governor about the economic effect and relationship between the bases and their surrounding communities.

The Commission is working to get the state to view military bases in the way it views industry when considering economic development. The study was prepared by East Carolina University Regional Development Services; Regional Economic Models Inc., of Amherst, Mass.; and N.C. State University's Division of Community Engagement.

The study indicates that the Base Realignment and Closing Commission (BRAC) has begun its initial steps in another round of military assessments and it is expected that the next series of BRAC recommendations will occur during the latter part of 2005.

The study indicates that over 333,000 people have some link to the state's military or its economic stimulation. The non-military labor force is also greatly affected by the economic impact of military dollars—nearly 84,000 jobs are stimulated by the economic activity associated with military spending in various ways.

Almost \$13 billion in personal income is gained by the state in economic activities related to the military, its bases, and its personnel.

Also, industrial activity within the state is accelerated by the many forms of military spending. There is \$23 billion created in demand while nearly another \$14 billion in output is generated by the dollars and economic demands placed on the economy by the presence of military spending.

Source: *Sam Atkins, Gaston County*

Free Apprenticeship Program Benefits Military Servicemen

Active duty enlisted military personnel who are considering a career in their present occupational field may qualify for a program that certifies them for the experience they have already obtained.

The United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) is a registered apprenticeship program that awards job certification to individuals through documented on-the-job training in a particular military trade or skills area. Since its inception 20 years ago, the USMAP has awarded 20,000 journeyman certificates.

Service members enrolled in the program must complete a required number of hours, ranging from 2,000-10,000. After the required number of hours are completed, they are awarded with a Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship by the Department of Labor (DOL).

"I've had sailors write to me after retiring from the Navy and tell me the certification made a \$12,000 difference in starting salary," said Peggy Johnson, Chief of Naval Education and Training USMAP administrator. "One Navy cook was hired to work in the kitchens at a Marriott hotel, at a 40 percent higher rate of pay based upon this professional certification."

In order to qualify for the program, all applicants must be active duty enlisted personnel in the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard; have a high school diploma or GED; be designated in a job specialty, rating or military occupational specialty; and meet the registration requirements for that particular trade.

If eligible, service members may be certified within 125 different skills areas, such as refrigeration mechanic, photographer, dental assistant, aircraft mechanic or computer programmer.

For a complete list of approved trades, you may visit: <https://www.cnet.navy.mil/usmap/>

Source: *Cpl. Jennifer Brofer, MCRDI/ERR Parris Island*

Carteret Community College News

Carteret Community College held its 14th Annual Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony on April 23, 2004. Several WIA students were honored at the event in Morehead City.

Sarah Haly, a WIA participant in Therapeutic Recreation, received the Outstanding Therapeutic Recreation Student Award. Also, Jane D. Styron, WIA participant in Medical Assisting, was awarded the WIA Grant Honors Award for 2003-04. This award is given annually in recognition for Academic Excellence while participating in the WIA program at Carteret Community College.



Sarah Halsey and Wanda Glosston



Jane Styron and Wanda Glosston

Also, Wanda Glosston and Laurie Schultz, from Carteret Community College, attended the Southeastern Training Association (SETA) Spring Conference on April 4-7, 2004. This event was held at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC and attracted attendees from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The 2005 Spring SETA Conference will be held at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Pictured below (from left to right) are Denece Berry and Lea Thornton (Wayne Community College); Laurie Schultz and Wanda Glosston (Carteret Community College); and Lea Thornton and Bena Mann.

Submitted by: *Wanda Glosston, Carteret Community College*



Cherry Retires from LCC

Joyce Cherry, interim president at Lenoir Community College (LCC), will retire again. Cherry began her career at the college in 1968 as an accounting instructor and has held several positions since then, including two interim presidencies. LCC brought Cherry out of retirement for the third time in 2003, when Steve Scott resigned.

Cherry's last day on campus will be Friday, May 7, and the new President, Brantley Briley, who signed his contract with LCC in March, will begin his term the following Monday. "It's been a joy," said Cherry. "I have no regrets in coming back to lead this college." Cherry said that she will miss the people at LCC most.

"I love the people," said Cherry. "My philosophy is, if they know what they're doing, get out of the way and let them go." Faculty and staff members gave Cherry a bracelet with a "No. 1 Mom" charm, since she is like a mother to them. "We just love her, and she's our mama," said Mary Tyndall, Cherry's assistant. "We enjoy working for her. She's just very special."

Source: *LaToya Mack, EncToday.com*

Joyce Cherry admires a crystal bowl that she was given at a retirement party at LCC. Ika Dawson, WIA case manager, is seated to the left.



Spotlight On Youth

"Youth Voices in Community Design" Handbook

A new how-to-guide on getting youth involved in local planning and policymaking has been released. The guide, *Youth VOICES in Community Design*, provides tips and suggestions for engaging youth in the community—from assessing your community's readiness for such an initiative, to recruiting and training youth. The handbook may be downloaded and used by people in the field of community planning, local or state government, nonprofit advocates, and high school or college teachers.

The handbook provides a step-by-step guide to youth engagement and is supported by an extensive online library of articles and activities. You may access the handbook and library at: http://www.californiacenter.org/voices/frames_preface.html

Source: *Southern Compass, 4/6/04*

Services for Youth with Disabilities

The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability (NCWD) for Youth website is a good resource for those working with or trying to improve services to youth with disabilities. The NCWD/Y has issued a new publication, "Making the Connections: Growing and Supporting New Organizations-Intermediaries," which provides information to states and communities that are involved in developing intermediaries in order to assist them in improved employment outcomes for youth with disabilities. For more information, visit: <http://www.ncwd-youth.info>

Source: *www.workforceusa.net*

How to Earn a Free Dell Computer...

Dell Computers launched Dell TechKnow program to assist the needs of low-income students. The program was established two years ago by the Denver School District to combat the student dropout rate and provide access to technology. Initiated by a community (educators, parents, community leaders) study of needs, the overwhelming response was that technology was the greatest need among students.

The mission of Dell TechKnow is to partner with school districts, corporations, non-profit agencies, and local community sponsors to provide at-risk or underserved students the opportunity to earn a home computer. Students who complete the program earn a refurbished Dell computer, operating system, and software donated by Microsoft.

Dell TechKnow is a 40-hour after-school program that provides students, primarily middle school students in underserved communities, with an opportunity to earn a home computer and learn technology skills upon completion. Dell and the Department of Education (DOE) will provide participating schools with teacher training, computers, and administrative funding for the program. New York City is one of more than 20 school districts nationwide participating in Dell TechKnow. Since July 2001, more than 2,100 students across the United States have completed the program with more than 1,000 students in the Spring 2004 class. For more information about this program, please visit: http://www.dell4k12.com/tpl_program.php?pr=28

Source: *Dell Computers*

The great aim of education is not knowledge but action.

~Herbert Spencer

Youth Updates

ECYC's 3rd Annual Youth Summit

The Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board (ECWDB) and the Eastern Carolina Youth Council (ECYC) held their third annual Youth Summit on April 20, 2004. The event was held at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The youth attending the event, "Knowledge Creates Success," had the opportunity to listen to a published keynote speaker and attend three different workshops.

In "No More Drama," youth learned techniques to resolve conflicts in their daily lives and recognized that people can work together to resolve conflict.

"Where Do We Go From Here" included a panel discussion of experienced workforce and educational professionals, as well as a young person. During this workshop, youth learned tips on what employers are looking for in employees, as well as advice on getting and keeping a job.

"Show Me the Money" educated youth on how to manage the money that they earn. The money management seminar is part of the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) and its High School Financial Planning Program.

The event was quite a success with over 200 youth in attendance. Admission to the event was in the form of one non-perishable food item. A representative from the Food Bank of North Carolina was on hand to collect the donations. The youth showed their support for the community by donating 383 pounds of food!

The Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board staff appreciates the hard work and efforts of the Youth Council, the Youth Summit Committee, and the WIA staff who helped to make the event a success for the youth.

Submitted by: Joe McCarthy, Youth Coordinator, ECWDB



Youth donate food to the Food Bank of North Carolina.



(Left) Phyllis Bowen registers her youth.



(Right) "Sporty" Jerals warms up the crowd!



Youth listen to presenter in a workshop.



Youth break for lunch after attending three workshops.

"Changing of Guards" at James Sprunt

Renita D. Allen replaced Rebecca Oliver as Basic Skills Coordinator, beginning January 15, 2004. Ms. Allen was the former Human Resources Development Instructor and Recruiter for James Sprunt. It was her job to help all types of people learn the skills that will either get them a better job or help them as they continue on in school. The job involved teaching short-term training classes, which were offered through HRD and the JobLink Career Center. The topics included motivation, resume writing, computers for the workplace, and interviewing skills.

A native of Goldsboro, Ms. Allen initially had her mind on business when she graduated in 1993 with a degree in marketing from East Carolina University and began work at Dillard Building, Inc. She has since earned a master's in Adult Education, also from ECU, and plans to work on her doctorate in the near future.

Ms. Allen has many inspiring ideas for the Basic Skills Program. She plans to make the program more student-focused. By that, she means to focus more on the educational needs of each student. She feels classes and instruction should be more individualized in order to help students be more successful. For example, students who need extra help in math will be grouped together and math classes/tutoring will be offered for them.

Ms. Allen also wishes to streamline the Adult High School Program. She would like to group the AHS students together and offer regularly scheduled classes in subject areas for the students to attend. Ms. Allen realizes that it will take some time to implement these new ideas. In time, she will also be more equipped to make other positive changes in the department, so that it will continue to best meet the needs of the students.

Ms. Allen is not new to WIA. She has taught a Survival Skills for Youth workshop for the JSCC WIA Youth Program. She has previously attended the Youth Leadership Conferences as a workshop facilitator. She has also attended the Women's Empowerment Conference as a guest speaker. Ms. Allen has worked closely with the WIA Adult Program and Dislocated Worker Program staff. She has taught various workshops and summer youth program workshops for these programs.

As WIA Youth Program Supervisor, Ms. Allen will oversee the program in its entirety, yet concentrate on managing the program's budget. Renita looks forward to working with the WIA Youth Program and its staff. "I enjoy working with young people—to encourage them and to show them there is an opportunity for a better life and success for all people."



Rebecca Oliver (left)



Renita Allen (right)

Submitted by: JSCC Public Information

Congratulations A.L.S.

A.L.S. is a participant in the WIA program at Dobbs Youth Development Center. A.L.S. received his GED from Lenoir Community College on April 2, 2004.

Submitted by Patrice Hunt, Dobbs Youth Development Center

Dobbs WIA Youth Graduates From Prestigious Academy

A WIA student at Dobbs Youth Development Center graduated from the Governor's Academy for Prevention Professionals (GAPP) on March 20th. The GAPP is sponsored through the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This cutting edge academy has been in existence for thirteen years and has more than 700 graduates. At age sixteen, Rich (name altered) is the youngest participant to date.

Traditionally, this program has been geared towards adults rather than teenagers. However, Rich's interest in substance abuse prevention resulted in his acceptance to this very esteemed academy as a pilot project.

Graduating from GAPP is no easy feat. In order to graduate, Rich completed two sessions. He completed Session I, January 18-23 and Session II, March 14-19. Successful completion of both sessions constitutes daily attendance of all classes, activities and exams. Both the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) administers the final exam. Graduating awards 110 hours towards prevention certification.

Suzanne Nix, Substance Abuse Coordinator at Dobbs, raved about Rich's accomplishment—despite his age, his performance has been "awesome," outshining many of the adult students.

On April 2, Rich received notification that he had been appointed to serve as a member of the Juvenile Justice Planning Committee of the Governor's Crime Commission.

In light of Rich's tremendous success, the Academy may consider accepting younger applicants. It is possible that it could open up to candidates as young as 18 years of age. Rich is proof that younger students can and will be lucrative in the Academy.

Source: Patrice Hunt, Dobbs Youth Development Center

JSCC's Basic Skills Student of the Year

On April 19, 2004, James Sprunt Community College held its Annual Student Awards Ceremony. The purpose of this ceremony is to honor students for outstanding achievements during the school year. This year the Basic Skills Department gave out its first award. Chendric Brinson was honored as Basic Skills Student of the Year. Basic Skills Faculty nominated Chendric for his perseverance and dedication despite the odds. Chendric completed his GED in March and has plans to enroll in a curriculum program in the Fall. Additionally, Edwin Brian Powell was recognized for Outstanding Performance as a Basic Skills Student.



Chendric Brinson and Renita Allen

Submitted by: Renita Allen, JSCC

JSCC: Race 4 Literacy

On April 1, 2004, in conjunction with Spring Fling, the Basic Skills Department at James Sprunt Community College hosted a Scrabble Tournament. The Scrabble Tournament was an activity to promote the statewide Literacy campaign, "Race 4 Literacy," being sponsored by the North Carolina Community College System. Khristina Burger, a Cosmetology student at James Sprunt, was the winner. She won an electronic Scrabble Game.



Khristina Burger

Submitted by: Renita Allen, JSCC

Congratulations Craig Frazier!

Craig has worked at Arthur Edwards Elementary School for the past two summers for work experience. He did such an outstanding job that they have hired him as a permanent employee! He graduates May 22, 2004!

Submitted by: Teri Campbell, WIA Case Manager

LCC's WIA Youth Club Celebrates Black History Month

As part of Black History Month, several members of the LCC's WIA youth club traveled to Raleigh, NC to visit the African-American Culture Complex on February 20, 2004. WIA club members, along with several Family Literacy's program members, experienced a professional guided tour. This tour presented the untold and true stories of the presence of African Americans in America and NC, their heritage, contributions, and impact on American Society. An educational and fun time was enjoyed by all.



(LCC's youth club members from left: Tabitha Hilton, Marketta Harris, Gabriel Bright, and Daryl Dudley.)

LCC's WIA youth club member, Marketta Harris, recently participated in the African-American Literature, "Portraits in Black" Cultural Program on February 18, 2004. Marketta, along with several LCC students, delighted the audience of 200 or more with bio dialogues with spirituals, highlighting the lives of notable African-Americans, like Maya Angelou, Sojourner Truth, Paul Dunbar, Langston Hughes, and Malcolm X.

Harris lead the choir with the "Negro National Anthem" with final remarks given by Evelyn Kelly, LCC's English professor.

"I really enjoyed singing with the choir and learning so much about my ancestors and heritage," said Harris. "I was really nervous at first, but my joy for singing would not keep me from performing."



Marketta Harris

Source: Tezra Parker, Case Manager, LCC