

Communicate with Us!

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Pat Moss, Office Assistant



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Raza Festival
in Warsaw, NC
September 25, 2004, 11am-5pm

Youth Council Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
October 5, 2004, 6:00 pm

ECWDPA 1st Annual Golf Classic
at the Carolina Pines Golf and Country Club
in New Bern
October 8, 2004

**Adult & Dislocated Worker
Provider Meeting**
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
October 12, 2004

JobLink Chartering Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
October 14, 2004, 6:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
October 19, 2004, 6:00 pm

WIA Oversight Committee
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
October 21, 2004, 6:00 pm

**NC Workforce Development
Partnership Conference**
at the Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel in
Greensboro, NC
October 27-29, 2004

ECWDB Annual Banquet
at the New Bern Riverfront Convention
Center
November 4, 2004, 6:00 pm

ECWDPA Meeting
at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
November 18, 2004, 10:00 am

**Happy 15 Year Anniversary
Lisa!**

Lisa Harvey has served as staff to the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board for 15 years! During this time, Lisa has been instrumental to the programs and services provided to the citizens of Eastern Carolina by the ECWDB. Lisa continually exceeds the expectations of her job, but she does so in a quiet manner that does not call attention to herself. However, her hard work and dedication over the years is remarkable and worthy of praise—so let's not let this opportunity slip by unnoticed!



**Congratulations
Lisa Harvey!**



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**Lenoir Community College Receives Grant to
Train Health Care Workers**

The Project HEALTH grant awarded to LCC will bring in \$203,000.

Lenoir Community College was one of three grant recipients in North Carolina to receive the Project HEALTH grant. Project HEALTH (Helping Employers and Labor Transition to Health Care) will use innovative training approaches with the large and diverse pool of workers who have been displaced due to layoffs and business closings.

"The health care industry is predicted to grow at a rate of 28 percent between 2002 and 2012, adding 3.5 million new jobs," said Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Emily Stover DeRocco. "The programs supported by these grants will serve as models

for the public workforce system to equip workers with skills needed to hold good jobs at good pay and continue providing Americans with quality health care."

This grant will bring in \$203,000 over a two year period. Project HEALTH will add additional services and support to dislocated workers interested in a medically related career.

Project HEALTH will address the critical shortage of healthcare personnel by focusing on dislocated workers' access, training and retention issues related to healthcare occupations. The project will increase awareness of the nature of healthcare jobs, explore

barriers to employment, address issues of retention and provide realistic pathways to healthcare careers.

The goal of Project HEALTH is to help dislocated workers acquire and retain jobs in healthcare occupations while helping them to secure wages, benefits, and career advancement opportunities in this highly demanded field.

Project HEALTH is part of the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative and is part of more than \$24 million for health care industry workforce solutions.

Source: Susan Bishop Gale, LCC and www.doleta.gov

**Eastern Carolina Local Area Youth Receives
Governor's Award**

Lenoir Community College Workforce Investment Act youth is selected for Excellence in Workforce Development as "Outstanding Youth."

Melissa Coley has overcome many obstacles in her young life. Melissa dropped out of high school in the 10th grade, but after enrolling in Lenoir Community College's Adult High School Program, she completed her high school diploma in 2001.

Soon after receiving her diploma, Melissa became a single mom with the birth of her son in January 2002. Wanting to provide for herself and her son, Melissa enrolled in the WIA Youth program to continue her education employment goals.

Melissa successfully completed the Phlebotomy Technician course at Lenoir Community College and she is currently employed full time as a Certified Technician at the American Red Cross.

Melissa is providing for her family without public assistance and public housing. At her young age, she has obtained a home and a car while helping to encourage her younger sister to achieve her educational and career goals.

Melissa thanks her family

for their love and support as she continues to plan for a bright future for herself and her family.

Submitted by: Renee Sutton, LCC



Melissa Coley



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.

Slate of Officers

Chief Elected Official: Oscar Herring, Lenoir County

Chair: Don Harris, Onslow County

Vice Chair: Melanie Sanders, Wayne County

Secretary/Treasurer: Phil Prescott, Jr., Lenoir County



Working together to make a difference in eastern North Carolina!

There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone's life.
~Sister Mary Rose McGeady

Carteret County

Mike Kraszeski, Veneer Technologies, Vice President
Dave Inscoc, Carteret County Economic Development Council
James Garner, Creative Outlet, Owner
Linda Clay, Chief Elected Official

Craven County

Joseph Greaser, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO, Directing Business Representative
Tom Taylor, Aflac Insurance, Retired Executive
Kimsey Welch, Vocational Rehabilitation, Director
Lee K. Allen, Chief Elected Official

Duplin County

Jerome Shepard, National Spinning, Plant Manager
Alex Asbun, Duplin General Hospital, Inc., Director of Latino Health Care Access
Myrle Beringer, Chief Elected Official

Greene County

Bud May, Greene Lamp, Inc., Executive Director
Judy Darden, Darden Bookkeeping, Owner
Bennie Heath, Chief Elected Official

Jones County

Frank Emory, Emory Construction, Owner
Thelma Simmons, Jones County DSS, Executive Director
Adrienne Fiedler, Jones County Partnership for Children, Early Education Specialist
Joseph Wiggins, Chief Elected Official

Lenoir County

Dr. Brantley Briley, Lenoir Community College, President
Phil Prescott, Parker-Lowe & Associates, Imaging Consultant
Debbie Beech Burrell, FACILITATE, CEO
Oscar Herring, Chief Elected Official

Onslow County

Tracey Brown, Onslow CHIP, Director
Don Harris, Stanadyne Diesel, Retired
Ralph Leeds, Employment Security Commission, Manager
Delma G. Collins, Chief Elected Official

Pamlico County

Dorothy Lupton, Buckhorn Books, Owner
Carla Byrnes, B & B Yacht Designs, Owner
Gary Mastrodonato, The Masters, LLC. Wealth Mgmt. Group, CEO/President
Christine Mele, Chief Elected Official

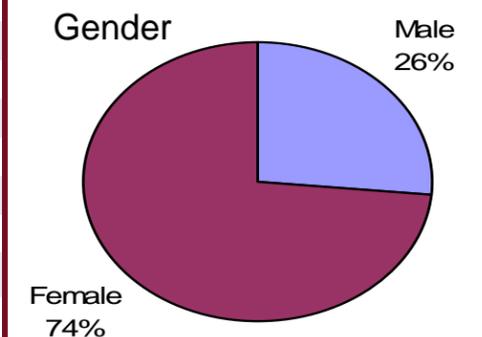
Wayne County

Bonnie Carlton, KAN SEEK, Owner
Melanie Sanders, Human Resources Manager
Atlas Price, Jr., Chief Elected Official

PY 2004-2005 Planned vs. Actual Enrollments {actual data as of 9-4-04}

WIA Service Provider	Program	Planned	Actual
Carteret Community College	Adult	50	38
Carteret County Schools	In-School Youth	65	51
Coastal Carolina Community College	Adult	93	67
Craven County Schools	In-School Youth	75	39
Dobbs School	In-School Youth	54	20
ECWDB Local Area	Incumbent Worker	NA	161
ESC	Adult	56	57
ESC	Hurricane Isabel	NA	4
ESC - Jacksonville	DW	62	35
ESC - Morehead City	DW	62	19
ESC - New Bern	DW	62	36
Greene County Schools	In-School Youth	30	23
Greene Lamp, Inc.	Out-of-School Youth	130	124
James Sprunt Community College	Adult	130	187
James Sprunt Community College	DW	128	139
James Sprunt Community College	Out-of-School Youth	32	24
Jones County Schools	In-School Youth	27	26
Lenoir Community College	Adult	142	141
Lenoir Community College	Out-of-School Youth	50	41
Lenoir Community College	DW	207	217
Lenoir County Schools	In-School Youth	69	66
Pamlico Community College	Adult	40	65
Pamlico Community College	DW	10	11
Wayne Community College	Adult	106	156
Wayne Community College	DW	111	115
Wayne Community College	Out-of-School Youth	90	79
TOTALS		1,881	1,941

TOTALS By PROGRAM		
Program	Planned Enrollments	Actual Enrollments
Adult	617	681
DW	642	568
In-School Youth	320	227
Out-of-School Youth	302	256
Incumbent Worker	NA	152
Hurricane Isabel	NA	4



Fiscal & Programmatic Monitoring Schedule

Date of Visit	Time	Contractor	ECWDB Staff
Wed. 9/15/04	10:00	Pamlico Community College Gray Gaskins, Virginia Traver	Lisa Harvey, Monique Grannum, Trina Hale
Tues. 9/21/04	10:00	Greene County Schools Nederal Williams, Harvey Gay	Joe McCarthy, Jessie Bode
Wed. 10/6/04	10:00	Lenoir Community College Renee Sutton, Rhonda Reeder	Lisa Harvey, Monique Grannum, Trina Hale
Wed. 10/6/04	10:00	Jones County Schools Joletha White, Victor Foster, Lisa Davis	Joe McCarthy, Jessie Bode
Wed. 11/3/04	10:00	Coastal Carolina Community College Dianne Beckwith, Laura Payne, Michelle Stiles	Lisa Harvey, Trina Hale
Tues. 11/16/04	10:00	Lenoir County Schools Cathy Goodman, Iris Ginn	Joe McCarthy, Jessie Bode

JOBLINK CAREER CENTER OUTCOMES
as submitted by JLCC Partners for period of July 1- August 31, 2004

TOTAL	Carteret	Craven	Duplin	Greene	Jones	Lenoir	Onslow	Pamlico	Wayne (Mt.O)	Wayne	
CUSTOMERS SERVED	10,202	1,512	3,126	309	214	54	670	410	39	901	2,967
NEW	3,985	644	1,223	115	62	18	309	201	1	341	1,071
RETURNING	6,217	868	1,903	194	152	36	361	209	38	560	1,896
SERVICES											
Assessment/Testing	317	65	97	12	13	5	52	29	5	1	38
Assessment Interview	862	49	3	12	1		15		3	16	763
Assigned Case Manager (WIA)	37	1	1	18	6		7		4		
Career Counseling	314	7	13	19	17	8	187	54	9		
Career Information	362	4	199	29	7	17	39	62	5		
Career Search	55		2	1	8	14	16	14			
Counseling - Group Session	177			4		19	149		4		1
Counseling - Individual	687	120	23	386	22	19	89	5	4		19
Dislocated Worker to Non-Dislocated Worker	3	2		1							
Interviewing Skills	169		152	8	1	5	1		2		
Job Development Contacts	386	71	160	9	1	5	4	57		10	69
Job Listings	783			4	18	25	556	180			
Job Seeking Skills Workshop	43	10	1			32					
JobLink Registration	1,621	257	482	16	15	14	351		5	178	303
JobLink Visit	3,248	360	629	288	311	62	826	93	5	41	633
Non-Dislocated Worker to Dislocated Worker	15				15						
Obtained Employment	325	76	164		1		1			10	73
Placed in a Job	1,495	195	800	5	4	1				261	229
Placed in Training (Other Federal, State or Local)	503	1	5		5	1	235	252	2	1	1
Placed in Training (WIA)	74	8	28		4		2	1	28		3
Provide Labor Market Information	6,331	729	3,207	12	6	19	766	16	3	533	1,040
Referred from Community Colleges	108						1	107			
Referred from DSS	219		83	1	1		122	12			
Referred from ESC	149	44	85	3	1	10	1	5			
Referred from Other	69						5	65			
Referred from VR	1							1			
Referred from WIA	26			2	5	18	1				
Referred to a Job	17,229	3,357	6,859	30	79	25	45	90		1,152	5,592
Referred to Community Colleges	271	13	129	1	9	9	99	6	5		
Referred to DSS	14		8	1	1	4					
Referred to ESC	82			4	2	3	60	13			
Referred to Job Corps	4				1		2	1			
Referred to Other	210		174		2	21	4	9			
Referred to Other Educational Services	15	1	6	1		5	2				
Referred to Other Federal, State or Local Training	62	3	45			1	11			2	
Referred to Veterans Services	55		55								
Referred to VR	17	13	3				1				
Referred to WIA	125	32	1	5	7		78	2			
Resume Preparation Assistance	528	25	21	3	2	8	69	56			344
OUTCOMES											
Completed Training	234	9		1	40	16	168				
Finished School	4					2	2				
Got a Job	1,997	272	977	2	16	1	93	63		271	302
Moved	17						2	15			
Other	38			8		5	17	8			
Refused to Continue	5							5			

ECWDB's Key Strategies:

- Develop and implement a five-year strategic plan that addresses the workforce development needs of the region
- 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 efforts that further enhance the WDB's initiatives

Get to Know Board Directors...

Thomas Taylor, Craven County

What do you consider to be the most significant issue for the Board to address at this time?

Helping those who have recently graduated and cannot afford college to qualify for better paying jobs.

What kind of background, both personal and professional, do you bring to the Board?
Recruiting, training and managing.

Who has the greatest influence on making you the person you are today and why?

My parents, family, teachers and God.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

Not much.

What event had the greatest impact on your life?

World War II, military service and 9/11.

What do you do for fun? Golf and gardening.

Director's Corner

Have you visited your local JobLink lately?

At the JobLink Career Center you will find professional, friendly staff available to assist job seekers and employers alike with their employment and training needs. Whether it is a young customer who dropped out of school, a parent seeking a better career or someone who was laid off, the JobLink staff is ready to offer career guidance on available employment and/or training options. This service is available for everyone.

There are a variety of services for employers as well, from assistance finding qualified workers, designing a structured training program, or researching employment trends in specific industries, the JobLink staff is ready to assist employers with their unique workforce needs. If you haven't been to the JobLink in a while, I would like to invite you to do so.

Since quality services are the number one priority of JobLink staff, we would also welcome your feedback on your visit. If you have any specific suggestions for improvement, or special services that you would like to see offered, please share those suggestions with the JobLink Coordinator, or give me a call. Working together, our goal is to provide quality services in all of our local JobLink Centers, and I believe that we are achieving that goal. Each quarter, performance reports are revealing that more customers are benefiting from the many services offered through their local JobLink.

In an effort to improve our JobLink Centers, across the State, Workforce Board members, JobLink partners, and Center staff have been involved in the JobLink rechartering application process necessary for certification to operate as a JobLink Career Center. Chartering is the approval process completed by the Workforce Development Board to determine whether a site can operate using the JobLink brand name. The charter is a license for the JobLink to conduct business at a specific site under the JobLink brand for a two or three year period depending upon the type of JobLink Center status.

The JobLink rechartering process requires certain conditions to be met such as: evidence that state workforce agencies are providing core services on-site, development and approval of the JobLink Center's business plan, ADA compliant, fully equipped career resource center, and a signed Memorandum of Understanding by partners that describes their contributions and the services they will offer in the JobLink.

Throughout our Local Area, numerous meetings have occurred with JobLink partners as they work toward finalizing their re-chartering efforts to meet the State's certification requirements by December 31, 2004. To date, Pamlico and Wayne County have been certified under the new criteria. The Board's JobLink Committee has reviewed rechartering applications from Carteret, Craven, Greene, Jones, and Lenoir and has submitted them to the Commission on Workforce Development. Next steps of the recertification process include: site visits by Commission staff, Board members and staff to meet with partners and tour the JobLink. Upon a satisfactory review, the Commission on Workforce Development will issue Charters to the Board which will be presented at this year's Annual Banquet to be held on November 4, 2004.

On behalf of the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, I would like to close with a special thank you to all the JobLink Center staff and partners who have worked so hard on their JobLink rechartering applications. Your commitment and dedication to North Carolina's workforce development system is reflected in your professionalism, friendly smile, and caring attitude toward the customers that you serve on a daily basis. Together, we are making a difference.

By: Tammy Childers, Executive Director

July Unemployment Rate Falls in 83 NC Counties

Total North Carolina employment grew by 24,000 jobs over the month.

According to the State ESC, county unemployment rates fell in 83 of North Carolina's 100 counties in July—by as much as 2.1 percent.

The rate was unchanged in six and rose in the remaining eleven counties. For the fifth consecutive month, Vance County had the state's highest unemployment rate at 13.1 percent in July. For the fourth consecutive month, Currituck County had the state's lowest unemployment rate at 1.2 percent.

"Total employment grew by 24,000 over the month, which is reflected in the majority of North Carolina's county unemployment rates," said ESC Chairman Harry E. Payne, Jr. "Also, nearly half of the counties had rates at five percent or less. The Leisure and Hospitality Services—which gained 2,000 jobs over the month—is also a contributing factor to the drop in rates."

The five counties receiving the highest amount in unemployment insurance benefits in July were:

- Mecklenburg: \$6.1 million
- Wake: \$5.2 million
- Guilford: \$3.8 million
- Forsyth: \$2.2 million
- Gaston: \$1.7 million

In July, \$69.2 million was paid to 61,250 individuals statewide in regular unemployment insurance and extended benefits, compared with \$79.4 million paid to 90,649 individuals in the previous month.

Source: ESC of NC

Unemployment Rates as of July 2004

Source: Employment Security Commission LMI

County	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
	July 2003	July 2003	July 2004	July 2004
Carteret	30,160	3.5%	29,766	2.8%
Craven	39,728	5.5%	38,967	4.2%
Duplin	24,573	7.9%	23,500	6.2%
Greene	10,096	6.9%	10,033	6.8%
Jones	5,014	4.9%	4,938	3.9%
Lenoir	31,060	7.2%	30,206	5.1%
Onslow	52,087	5.7%	51,237	4.4%
Pamlico	5,937	4.1%	5,843	3.1%
Wayne	52,182	7.2%	51,321	6.2%
Eastern Carolina Local Area	250,837	6.1%	245,811	4.9%
State of NC—not seasonally adjusted	4,311,022	6.9%	4,251,233	5.4%
State of NC—seasonally adjusted	4,252,576	6.6%	4,189,247	5.0%
National—not seasonally adjusted	147,822,000	6.3%	149,217,000	5.7%
National-seasonally adjusted	146,652,000	6.2%	147,856,000	5.5%

NC Unemployment Rate Remains Below National Average

North Carolina's unemployment rate has remained below the nation's for 5 months.

North Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in July fell a half of a percentage point to 5 percent—down from 5.5 percent in June.

North Carolina's unemployment rate has remained below the national average for five months—since March 2004.

Total seasonally adjusted household employment was reported at 3,978,179 in July, an increase of 12,024 since June, and a 7,938 rise over July 2003. Total seasonally adjusted unemployment was reported at 211,068, a decrease of 20,094 over the month, and a drop of 71,267 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, gained 8,200 jobs over the past month. The largest increase occurred in Manufacturing (+2,800), followed by Educational and Health Services (+2,700) and Construction (+1,500).

Source: ESC of NC

Carteret Youth Take Part in Work Experience through WIA

WIA funding enabled over 40 high school students to work in area businesses this summer in a career that interested them.

Thanks to WIA, a federal grant program, area youth are provided with opportunities to work in a career that interests them. "We try to tailor each site based on a student's career interest and aptitude," said Phyllis Bowen, a WIA case manager. Though the work experience program, the business provides a place for the students to work and WIA funding pays the students' salaries and workmen's compensation.

Amber Bynum, 14, a rising sophomore at Cape Lookout Marine Science High School in Morehead City, was among the WIA students who participated in the work experience program. Amber loves animal and hopes to be a veterinarian some day, so it was only appropriate that she worked for Morehead City veterinarian Roxanne Taylor, at Park Animal Hospital. "I thought it would be good to have a job and it would help me in the future to get a better job," said Amber. Dr. Taylor said that she has been impressed with the two students that she's employed.

The WIA program is more than just summer employment—it provides participants with tutoring, mentoring, and other services that will help them succeed in high school and beyond. "The goal is for the students to graduate from high school and further their education or go into unsubsidized employment," said Bena Mann, Career Development Coordinator for Carteret County Schools.

Source: Cheryl Burke, News-Times



Amber Bynum holds a cat for Morehead City veterinarian, Dr. Roxanne Taylor

Summer Employment is a Valuable Experience for WIA Youth

Carteret County youth are getting a first-hand look at potential career choices.

Krystal Tripp is one of three high school students working for Carteret County government this summer as part of the WIA Youth Services Program. For many youth, working at a desk and talking about subjects like accounts payable, payroll and water billing is nothing to get excited about. But for Krystal Tripp, this is exactly how she wanted to spend her summer break! Her work in the Carteret County Finance Department is a lot different from last year's summer job at a fast-food restaurant. This time she's getting a first-hand look at her potential career choice—Accounting.

"I had a summer job last year, but I didn't learn anything about being a CPA. I didn't know about account receivable or payroll," said the 16 year old rising senior at Cape Lookout High School.

Sisters Tamika Vann, 17, and Carolene Vann, 16, both students at East Carteret High School, also spent their summer at the county administration building. Tamika pitched in at the tax office and Carolene assisted in both the manager's office and human resources department.

County Manager John Langdon was particularly pleased to see the three interns at work. "We're ecstatic about this program," he said. "I was pleased with what I heard about the program before (the interns) started, and now that I've seen what they are able to do, I'm really amazed." Langdon believes in the goal of helping students with their education while exposing them to the workforce and potential careers.

Carteret County WIA Youth Coordinator Nick Theuner said that the WIA Youth Program does more than provide summer jobs. The program also incorporates an educational aspect that includes mentoring, tutoring and year-round assistance that keeps students on track towards graduation. Theuner said that the participants' success is their diploma and ability to move on to post-secondary education, employment and other opportunities.

Source: Janette Pippin, Daily News



Tamika Vann & Krystal Tripp worked in the Carteret County tax and finance offices this summer.

Report Aims to Reverse Youth Unemployment Trends

Employment rate of U.S. youth lowest since World War II

From 2000-2003, the employment rate of youth ages 16-19 declined to the lowest point since World War II. The poorly educated and disabled represent a large proportion of unemployed youth. Only 35% of high school dropouts and 55% of high school graduates work in full-time positions. In addition, roughly two-thirds of disabled students do not complete high school, and more than half of America's disabled youth are unemployed.

The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) aims to reverse youth unemployment trends by increasing the effectiveness of the workforce development system. In its recent report, NCWD/Youth notes the implication in youth employment trends, and emphasizes the knowledge, skills, and abilities, of successful youth workforce development practitioners. To view the full report, visit: <http://www.ncwdyouth.info/assets/background/ksa.pdf>.

Source: Southern Compass

Youth Updates

Chrystal Tyler is JSCC July Student of the Month

Tyler credits the WIA program with helping her get this far in her plans.

Chrystal Tyler is well on her way to putting her dreams into action. The road to her future started with some obstacles, but she has worked around them and is looking forward to her future. As a senior in high school, Chrystal failed her English class, which was the last credit she needed for graduation. For two years since leaving school, Chrystal worked at fast food restaurants and in sales, and became a mother. But also during that time, she decided to return to school and entered the Adult High School program at James Sprunt Community College, which allowed her to complete the high school credit that she needed to receive a high school diploma.

Chrystal joined the WIA Youth program while working toward her diploma. "And they were just what I needed. I had my own goals, but sometimes I needed that extra push," said Chrystal. Through WIA, she found a clerical job at Services for the Aged. "They gave me a chance to experience a different type of atmosphere in the workplace."

But now that she has her high school diploma, Chrystal is working towards other goals. "There is so much I want to do. It's all about putting it into action." Chrystal said that through her personal experience, she wants to become a social worker.

Source: James Sprunt Public Information



Chrystal Tyler

Wayne Community College's Outstanding Students

WIA Youth are recognized for academic achievement.

It's that time of the year again when the halls are crowded and there are new faces among the old ones. The Fall 2004 semester at WCC has seen a big increase in the number of out-of-school youth who are enrolling into the Adult High School and GED Programs. That of course means a big increase in the number of applicants for the WIA-Out-School Youth Program as well. We look forward to a busy and exciting year ahead with the many new participants who are enrolling into the WIA program.

The 2004 summer term at WCC was slow, with many participants taking the summer off to look for work or to visit with family and friends. There were several who did attend classes during the summer session and three participants in particular stood out. Two of these participants were named to the Honors list for the AHS Program and one was named to the Dean's list for curriculum classes for the summer session. Mary Cardin and Donna Davila were named to the AHS Honors List and Jami Roberts's was named to the Dean's List for WCC curriculum classes.

Jami Roberts and Mary Cardin are sisters and Mary stated that if she had not seen the success that Jami had in the WIA program and graduating with Honors, she herself may have not come back to school as soon as she did. She was so impressed with her sister Jami's success and continued success that she decided to come back to school after the birth of her son. She states she has never looked back. It appears that Mary will be graduating in December and plans to follow her big sister and enroll into WCC for the 2005 Spring semester. WCC wishes to congratulate these three hardworking students and looks forward to seeing their continued success.

Submitted by: Lea Thornton WIA Case Manager, WCC



Mary Cardin
Honor Roll for Summer 2004



Jami Roberts
Dean's List for Summer 2004

ETA Releases WIA Youth Services Paper

Visionary letter is released for serving out-of-school and at-risk youth under WIA.

On July 17, 2004, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) at the U.S. Department of Labor released its vision to serve out-of-school and at-risk youth under WIA. Under this new vision, WIA funded youth programs will provide leadership to connect these youth with quality secondary and postsecondary educational opportunities, and employment opportunities. The vision is part of the Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL 3-04), designed for State Workforce Agencies and Liaisons. To view the TEGL, visit: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL3-04.pdf>

Source: www.nawb.org

Hire Vets First Campaign for One-Stop Career Centers

Campaign encourages businesses to hire veterans.

The President's National Hire Veterans Committee will launch a national media campaign targeting employers on September 9 through November 11, 2004.

The launch will include the unveiling of the Hire Veterans First

website, www.HireVetsFirst.org, which is a portal for both employers and veterans. One-Stop Career Centers are at the center of the campaign as the location where businesses can go to receive assistance in recruiting and connecting to veterans.

The Hire Veterans First website provides a host of national, state, and local resources that can be recommended to businesses. Visit: www.HireVetsFirst.org to learn more.

Source: Hire Vets First

Governor Easley Seeks Federal Action to Protect NC Jobs

Letter calls for more aggressive safeguard action on imports from China.

Governor Mike Easley has called on the Bush administration to assume a more aggressive stance in imposing textile safeguards on imports from China; including cotton, wool, and man-made fiber socks.

In a letter to the Chairman of the Committee for Implementation of Textile Agreements, Jim Leonard, Easley urged that safeguard action be taken to limit the growth in Chinese imports.

"This action is necessary to stem an unfair surge in sock imports from

China, which threatens to eliminate the United States' sock industry and many of its suppliers," said Easley.

Since 2001, North Carolina's traditional manufacturing industries have lost more than 50,000 jobs, of which 2,700 are sock production jobs.

"If given a level playing field, North Carolina workers can compete with anyone in the world. Unfortunately, because of unfair trade policies, our state's manufacturing businesses and workers do not have a level playing field with China today," said Easley.

Governor Easley stated in his letter that safeguard action is necessary to protect NC jobs by giving NC manufacturers time to enhance their capacity for production and the development of new markets.

"The federal government must take more aggressive action against China's unfair trade practices, if US manufacturers are to compete effectively in a global marketplace," said Easley.

Source: Governor's Press Office

New Initiative Builds National Awareness to Construction Jobs

Skills to Build America's Future Initiative addresses careers in the construction industry.

The US Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration is addressing the concerns of the construction industry, which now employs over 6.9 million workers and had a gross domestic product of over \$480 billion last year, through a new initiative.

This initiative results after the Employment and Training Administration spent several months meeting with construction industry executives, human resource managers, as well as labor union representatives to learn more about the industry's workforce, the job opportunities that

exist and education and training required to fill those opportunities. During these meetings, it was apparent that the industry also faced serious challenges in recruiting and retaining new workers.

To help meet this particular challenge, the Labor Department established a partnership among industry/labor, educators and the workforce investment system. The result is the *Skills to Build America's Future Initiative*.

The *Skills to Build America's Future Initiative* is designed to build national awareness about the opportunities that

a career in construction and design/construction management has to offer. Also, the initiative addresses the importance of skilled workers to the economy and nation, inform people about training, education, and apprenticeship opportunities available to those who want to join the skilled workforce.

For more information on this initiative, including information on how to connect with local industry and labor organizations, visit the website: www.careervoyage.gov.

Source: US Department of Labor

North Carolina's 2004 Average Total SAT Score Increased

NC posted the highest 10-year gain on the SAT of any of the SAT states.

North Carolina's 2004 average total SAT score increased by five points, and the state's growth continued to outpace national growth on this measure, according to results released by The College Board.

The total average score for North

Carolina is 1,006. North Carolina's average total SAT score exceeds the Southeast score of 1,001, which includes scores from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

North Carolina is a national leader

in SAT score gains, having improved its score each year since 1990, except in 1994 when there was no change. North Carolina has improved its score by 42 points over the past 10 years and by 20 points in the past five years.

Source: ncpublicschools.org

Oh Where, Oh Where Is Marie?

An update on Marie Hatcher...

It's been over a year since Marie Hatcher left her position as Welfare-to-Work Coordinator at the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board. For folks out there wondering where Marie is and how she's doing, here's a little update on her.

It's been more than a year since July 11, 2003, when Marie Hatcher relocated to Virginia with her family and assumed a position with the Virginia Employment Commission as Workforce Investment Consultant. As she promised, Marie has constantly kept in touch with the ECWDB staff, and she came down for a visit on July 28, 2004.

Marie has been actively involved in providing technical assistance to the local workforce investment boards in Virginia and conducting compliance monitoring visits in the Virginia Local Areas outside of her jurisdiction. Marie is the WIA Consultant for the Northern Region where she currently lives. During monitoring visits, Marie has traveled from the town of

Dumfries, VA to the mountains of the Shenandoah Valley and almost to the hills of Tennessee and Kentucky where Virginia borders in the Southwest.

In addition to her regular duties, Marie continuously enhances her skills in the area of workforce development by attending trainings and conferences, such as the conference sponsored by the National Association of Workforce Development Boards in Washington, DC, where I had the opportunity to visit Marie and her family.

Most recently, Marie was invited to the awards banquet of the Northern Virginia Educational Foundation, Inc. where the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board was honored as one of the recipients of the Governor's Leadership Awards in Business and Education Partnerships. According to Marie, the best thing that happened during that banquet was getting a picture with Virginia's Governor Mark A. Warner. She said she felt so tickled about it and wanted to share the picture with us.

Marie brags about NC (particularly

ECWDB) all the time to her colleagues and fellow associates. Marie attributes her success to what she learned in North Carolina. She said that she's extremely proud of what our region does and how we're on the competitive edge in workforce development. She said that no matter what, her heart still belongs to us.

Overall, Marie and her family are doing fine. She sends her love and prayers to everybody. Marie wants to share her e-mail address to anybody who's interested. Her e-mail is mhatcher@vec.state.va.us.



VA Governor Mark Warner and Marie Hatcher

Farewell and Good Luck to John Wittenstrom & Doug Hutson

Carteret County ESC Manager departs after 6 years.

John Wittenstrom left the Carteret County Employment Security Commission (ESC) office to manage the ESC office that serves Moore and Montgomery County.

The civic and community involvement of Mr. Wittenstrom and his staff are credited in transforming the ESC office into a useful and well-connected resource.

"In my experience, John is a very unusual ESC director. I have never seen a director as involved in the

community," said Dave Inscoc, Director of the Carteret County Economic Development Council (EDC).

Mr. Wittenstrom credits the success of the local JobLink Career Center as his greatest achievement during his tenure, which began January 4, 1998. Mr. Wittenstrom said that his and his staff's involvement in the Chamber, the EDC and other organizations, and a close working relationship with Dr. Joe Barwick, Carteret Community College

President, have added to the JobLink's success.

Source: *Carteret County News-Times*



John Wittenstrom

Craven County JobLink WIA Case Manager departs after 7 years.

It's always hard to say goodbye. On September 17, the JobLink Career Center staff said farewell to Doug Hutson, who served as a WIA Case Manager for the Adult and Dislocated Worker (DW) program and as the Special Programs Supervisor, at the Craven County JobLink.

Mr. Hutson began working at the JobLink in July of 1997. During his seven year tenure, Mr. Hutson worked hard to help the citizens of Craven

County. He helped people find jobs, helped participants enroll in training, assisted customers with an array of services to help meet their needs and he was also instrumental in organizing Craven County Career Fairs held in recent years.

We wish Doug continued success in his new position at the Social Security Administration office in New Bern.



Pam Dorsey, Doug Hutson and Trudy Nelson at the ESC offices in New Bern

Make Plans for the ECWDPA's 1st Annual Golf Classic on Oct. 8

The event is part of a fundraising effort to support the Coastal Women's Shelter.

Have fun while benefiting a good cause! The proceeds from the ECWDPA's 1st Annual Golf Classic will go to support the Coastal Women's Shelter. The event will be held on October 8 at Carolina Pines Golf and Country Club in New Bern (rain date will be October 15).

The cost of registration is \$45 per person or \$180 per team. The format will be a Superball tournament. There will be teams consisting of four members and the tournament will be limited to the first 21 registered teams. Green fees, cart fees, hamburgers and hotdogs as you finish, beverages, a gift

bag, and a chance to win a door prize are all included in this fee.

Also, if you would like to sponsor a hole, the cost is \$100. For more information, registration or donations, please contact ECWDPA President Nick Theuner at (252) 726-7151.

Craven County JobLink Participates in Business Expo

JobLink staff were on site to market services and answer questions.

Craven County JobLink was among 140 vendors at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center for the Business Expo on August 19, 2004. The Expo gave local employers the chance to market their services to the community and network with area businesses.

The Craven County JobLink participated in the Expo as part of an ongoing marketing effort to spread the word to both employers and

jobseekers of the services available through the JobLink Career Center.

Trudy Nelson, Edmund Hughes, Cindy Smith and Rebecca Thomas-Suchenski set-up the JobLink booth and were on site to answer questions posed by individuals and employers. Edmund Hughes is pictured at right with the JobLink booth display.

Submitted by: *Rebecca Thomas-Suchenski, ECWDB*



Edmund Hughes

Onslow County JobLink Co-Sponsors Job Fair

The event was attended by over 2,000 job seekers and 90 employers.

The Onslow County Job Fair was held on August 31, 2004 and was attended by over 2,000 job seekers. Ninety employers were present and included county, state and federal agencies, home based business opportunities, restaurants, healthcare facilities, and retail establishments.

Employers were seeking to fill positions in management, sales,

education, customer service, construction, food service, medical, clerical, and administration jobs.

Employers were pleased with the turnout and 100% said that they would return for next year's Job Fair. All together, the employers felt that they would offer 504 jobs based on the applicants that they met at the Job Fair. Eighty-five percent of the employers

stated that their hiring needs were met and ten percent felt that most of their needs were met.

The event was sponsored by the Onslow County JobLink, Marine Corps Community Services, and the City of Jacksonville.

Submitted by: *Laura Payne, Coastal Carolina Community College*

Carteret Community College Holds "Pinning Ceremony" for Practical Nursing Graduates

Three WIA participants receive their "nursing pins" during the Ceremony.

On July 28, 2004, the 2004 Practical Nursing Program Pinning Ceremony was held at Carteret Community College. Wanda Glosson, WIA Adult Grant Coordinator, and Laurie Schultz, WIA Adult Grant Case Manager, attended the event to support the hard-working graduates.

Graduates from the Practical Nursing Program were given nursing pins during the Ceremony. WIA graduates were Catherine Dubois, Secrette Pence and Coreatha Sutton.

With growing healthcare industry and the crucial need for healthcare personnel, these graduates chose an excellent field for employment opportunities and competitive wages.

Congratulations to all of the graduates, with wishes of much continued success!

Submitted by: *Wanda Glosson, Carteret Community*



Secrette Pence



Catherine Dubois



Coreatha Sutton