

Communicate with Us!

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Lisa Harvey, MIS Coordinator
Trina Hale, Accounting Technician
Joe McCarthy, Youth Coordinator
Jessie Bode, Fiscal Monitor
Rebecca Thomas-Suchenski, Public Information Specialist
Pat Moss, Administrative Assistant

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Youth Leads Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
May 9 & 10, 2005

Building Employer Relationships Training

at North Raleigh Hilton
May 12 & 13, 2005

Eastern Region Strategic Planning

at the Global TransPark in Kinston
May 18, 2005

ECWDPA Luncheon

at New Bern Riverfront Convention Center
May 19, 2005, 10:00 am

Effective Case Notes Meeting

at the Workforce Development Training Center in Raleigh
May 23-27, 2005 (8:30-11:30 or 1:30-4:30)

Youth Council Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
June 7, 2005, 6:00 pm

Cross Cultural Competence Training

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
June 9, 2005, 8:00 am- 4:00 pm

JobLink Committee Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
June 9, 2005, 6:00 pm

Empowerment Conference "Celebrating a New Me"

at New Bern Riverfront Convention Center
June 10, 2005, 9:00 am- 4:00 pm

Cutting Edge One-Stops Workshop

in Wilmington, NC
June 14, 2005

Youth Provider Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
June 16, 2005, 10:00 am

WIA Oversight Committee

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
June 16, 2005, 6:00 pm

Choice Assessment Testing

at the Global TransPark Education in Kinston
June 21 & 22, 2005

Career Choices Training

Location TBA
June 21 & 23, 2005

State/Local Meeting

Park Inn Gateway Conference Center, Hickory
June 21-23, 2005

Executive Committee Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
June 30, 2005, 6:00 pm

ECWDB/Consortium Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
July 21, 2005 6:00 pm

Customer Service & Satisfaction

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
July 26, 2005

Case Management Training

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
July 27, 2005



May 2005

Volume 6, Issue 5

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How Will BRAC Affect Eastern North Carolina

What will happen to our military bases?

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) may affect an estimated 20-25 percent of all military bases, which is the level identified as surplus by the Bush administration.

Recommendations are to be made based on the military value of the facilities, structure of the force, environmental costs, and community impact. The question on many of our minds is how will this affect Eastern North Carolina and our country.

Regions with a base closing will experience a devastating economic blow. Communities will

need assistance in dealing with changes in population and economy.

On the other hand, regions that experience an influx, due to the relocation of military personnel from a closed base, will also need to prepare for changes in population and the economy.

Business services and job training/seekers services will be provided through the JobLink Career Centers and workforce development boards (including ECWDB) to help communities affected by BRAC.

So what will happen to the bases that are

closed? According to President Bush, "technology is the ticket" for energy, and he is seeking more nuclear power, refineries, drilling, and diesels.

The President has also ordered federal agencies to "simplify the permitting process" for oil refineries at retired bases.

Soon, we will know what will happen to our military bases. On May 16, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld will give the Pentagon's BRAC recommendations for military facilities that should be closed.

Source: www.globalsecurity.org

Lean Training Held for Craven Manufacturers

Training sponsored through Manufacturing Skills Alliance Grant.

The Craven County Manufacturing Skills Alliance (MSA) sponsored a one-day Lean Experience © workshop at Craven Community College on April 7, 2005.

Participants learned about the nine types of waste, as well as plant layout, visual systems, workplace organization, 6S, quality at the source, teams, pull systems and kanban, SMED, takt time, one-piece

flow, poke-yoke, and more.

Employers that took advantage of this training opportunity included: Urethane Innovators, Parker Marine Enterprises, Hatteras Yachts, DLA (Cherry Point), Moen, Carolina Technical Plastics, Excell Home Fashions, Kal-Tech, and NADEP.

The MSA grant is funded through NC's Commission on Workforce

Development and is administered by the ECWDB, in partnership with Craven Community College.

The purpose of this grant is to serve employers, train workers, and benefit the community by providing a certified workforce to new and existing companies.

To learn more about the Manufacturing Skills Alliance or other workforce training





Slate of Officers

Chief Elected Official: Joseph Wiggins, Jones County

Chairman: Don Harris, Onslow County

Vice Chairman: Melanie Sanders, Wayne County

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



Working together to make a difference in eastern North Carolina!

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life, you will have been all of these."

~George Washington Carver

Board of Directors

Carteret County

Mike Kraszeski, Veneer Technologies, Vice President
Dave Inscoe, Carteret County Economic Development, Executive Director
James Garner, Creative Outlet, Owner
Lynda 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, Director of Latino Health Care Access
Patricia Vinson, Smithfield Foods, Senior Financial Analyst
David G. Sussell, Sr., Chief Elected Official

Greene County

Bud May, Greene Lamp, Inc., Executive Director
Judy Darden, Darden Bookkeeping, Owner
Mary Betty Kearney, Chief Elected Official

Jones County

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

Lenoir County

Brantley Briley, Lenoir Community College, President
Phil Prescott, Jr., Parker-Lowe & Associates, Imaging Consultant
Debbie Beech Burrell, FACILITATE, CEO
George W. Graham, Jr., Chief Elected Official

Onslow County

Tracey Brown, Onslow CHIP, Director
Don Harris, Stanadyne Diesel, Retired
Ralph Leeds, Employment Security Commission, Manager
Lionell Midgett, Chief Elected Official

Pamlico County

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

Wayne County

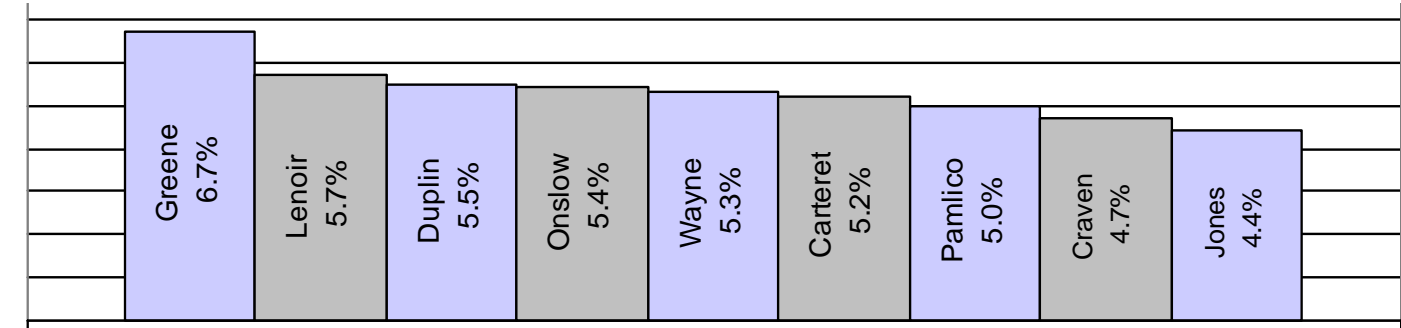
Bonnie Carlton, KAN SEEK, Owner
Melanie Sanders, Position Control Specialist, Caswell Center
Fletcher Bizzell, Ex-cell Home Fashions, HR Manager
J.D. Evans, Chief Elected Official

Local Area Unemployment Rate Decreased in 8 of 9 Counties.
Greene County was one of two counties in the State with an increase in unemployment.

The Eastern Carolina Local Area's unemployment was 5.3 percent in March, down from February's 6.0 rate. During this period, unemployment rates dropped in eight of the nine Local Area counties. Greene County was one of only two counties in the State which had a rate increase over the month. Unemployment rates for the Metropolitan Statistical Areas in our Local Area were:

- Jacksonville – 5.4 percent, down from 6.3 percent
- Unemployment rates for the Micropolitan Statistical Areas in our Local Area were:
- Kinston – 5.7 percent, down from 6.4 percent
- Morehead City – 5.2 percent, down from 6.1 percent
- New Bern – 4.7 percent, down from 5.4 percent.
- In March, \$3.4 million in unemployment insurance benefits were paid to individuals in the Eastern Carolina Local Area.
- Onslow County received the highest amount - \$664,239
- Wayne—\$626,421
- Craven—\$465,456
- Carteret—\$458,422
- Duplin—\$453,400
- Lenoir—\$436,636
- Greene—\$170,729
- Jones—\$68,636
- Pamlico—\$65,549.

Source: ESC of NC



March 2005 Unemployment Rate *
*March 2005 data are preliminary, and not seasonally adjusted.

BUILDING EMPLOYER RELATIONSHIPS

Making Businesses Satisfied, Lifelong Partners and Customers

Like most Workforce Investment Systems across the country, we are all working hard to reach, serve, and satisfy our business community.

Learn from one of the nation's foremost leaders in the field how to develop a true one-stop system for the delivery of comprehensive business services.

Greg Newton's "Building Employer Relationships" is guaranteed to take your business services to a new level!

Agenda Topics:

- Building a One-Stop System for Business Relationships and Satisfaction
- Relationship Management: Customers and Partners
- Whom Will You Target for Relationships?
- Marketing Your Services to Build Employer Relationships
- Best Bets and Action Planning

Workshop Dates:

May 10 & 11—Charlotte

May 12 & 13—Raleigh

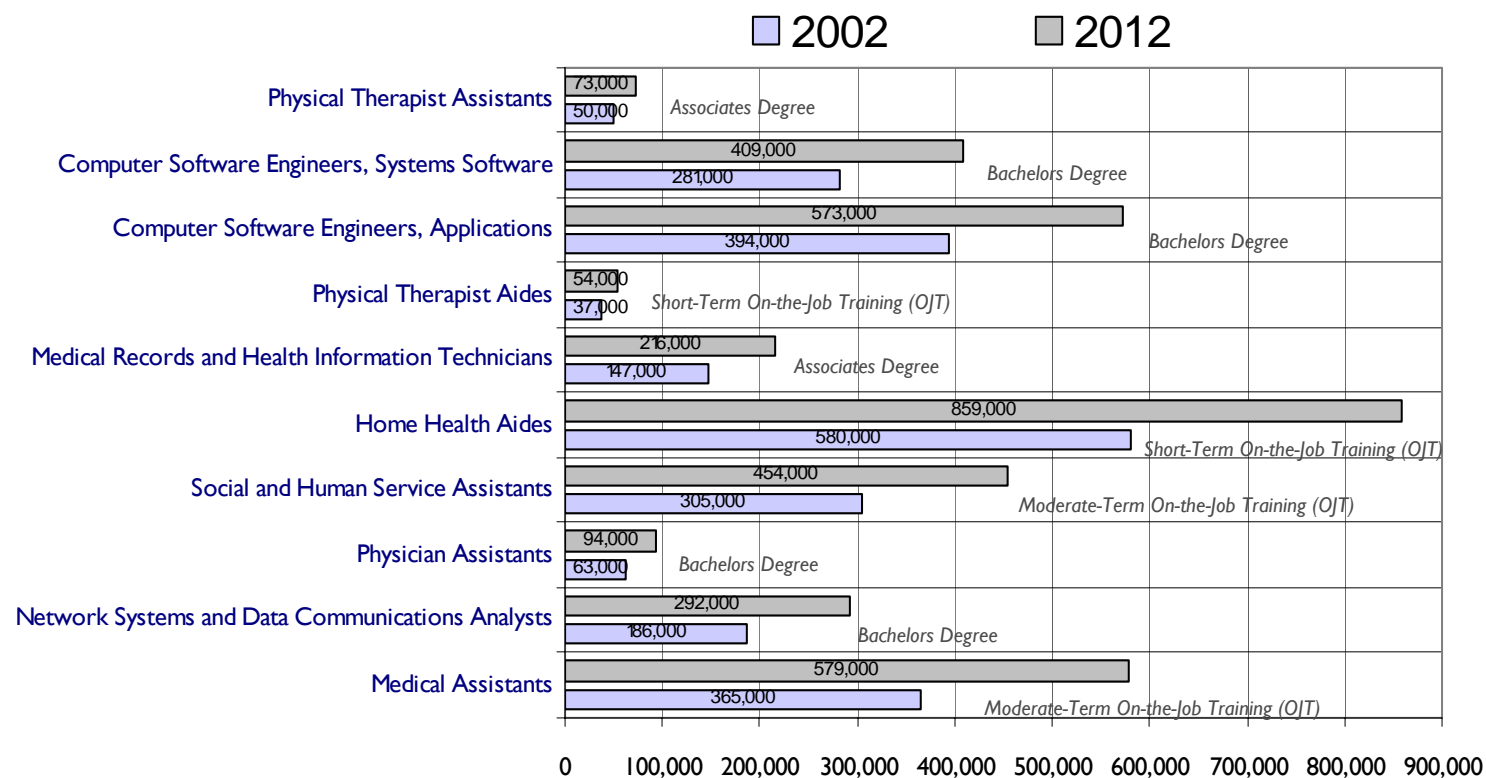
Two-Day Session: \$100.00

SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!!!!!!

Greg Newton

A Two-Day Event with Greg Newton

10 Fastest Growing Occupations



Based on data from the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina

Want to Learn How YOU May Qualify for Occupational Training...



Services Include:

- Skills Assessments
- Career Planning and Enhancement
- Resume Preparation
- Job Search Assistance
- On-the-Job Training (OJT)
- Occupational Skills Training
- Job Placement
- Educational Opportunities
- Scholarship and Financial Aid Information
- Connection to High School Completion and GED

Whether you are looking for your first job or a better job, the experienced JobLink staff is available to assist you with your employment & training needs!

Call your local JobLink Career Center today!

Carteret County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (252) 726-7151

Craven County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (252) 514-4828

Craven County JobLink Information Site

Phone: (252) 444-2384

Duplin County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (910) 296-2024

Greene County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (252) 747-5689

Jones County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (252) 448-5021

Lenoir County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (252) 527-7320

Onslow County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (910) 347-2121

Onslow County JobLink Information Site

Phone: (910) 938-6309

Pamlico County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (252) 249-1633

Wayne County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (919) 731-7950

Wayne County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (919) 658-4926

Sponsored by the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc. NC's JobLink Career Centers are an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids & services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. (TTY) 1-800-735-2962 (Voice) 1-800-735-8262

Director's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

Recently, several of our Board members and staff, along with our counterparts from Cape Fear, Lumber River, and Region L participated in our first two-day combined "Vision East Workforce Development Board Retreat" which was facilitated by John Metcalf, Corporation for a Skilled Workforce.

With 22 counties represented, we focused on the common issues faced by our Boards and how we can address them more effectively. Three themes emerged during our discussions: education, employment, and economic development. Education was identified as the number one issue hindering our workforce competitiveness in the East. Raising community awareness for the need to improve educational attainment levels became identified as the number one priority that our Boards can address collectively. One Board member said it best, "While education is a requirement, learning has become optional." We must find a way to convince our families of the need for life-long learning if our children are going to have the same opportunities for economic prosperity that we have been given.

To put our challenge in perspective, on a global scale, data from www.compete.org indicates that the United States' twelfth grade math and science assessments rank as number nine among other countries. With North Carolina lagging behind as compared to the other States, identifying skill gaps and raising basic skills levels must be a workforce development priority for all of us – workforce boards, educators, parents, students, elected officials, government, community organizations, and especially the private sector. One approach that was agreed upon was supporting North Carolina's New Career Readiness Certificate Initiative using Work Keys as a tool to identify skill gaps and raise basic skills levels of our current and future workforce.

Other strategies included strengthening our alliances with economic development in identifying current and future industry growth areas and ensuring that available education and training opportunities are in place to produce a highly skilled workforce. By the end of the retreat, our Boards agreed that we share a common vision for eastern North Carolina, that is, to have a highly skilled workforce that can help local firms compete in a technologically advanced global economy. We left with a renewed sense of purpose and mission on improving the eastern region's workforce to ensure that our citizens earn wages and achieve educational attainment levels that are above the state average. As four boards combined their efforts, VISION EAST became a new reality and we intend for the creativity shown by that group to be just the beginning.

By: Tammy Childers, Executive Director

Local Rotary Clubs Host Guests from India.

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 31,000 Rotary clubs located in 167 countries.

Several of our Board members (myself included) are Rotarians. In fact, Mr. Jim Garner is President of the Morehead City Evening Rotary Club.

Rotary's Motto is Service above Self and their mission is to Promote World Peace and Understanding. Each year, Rotary Clubs around the globe sponsor individuals to visit other countries for that purpose. Last week my family hosted Ms. Asha Nair, a Production Engineer from Jharkhand, India, who

was one of five members of the India Group Study Exchange team that is visiting eastern North Carolina.

The GSE team was comprised of professionals representing healthcare, government, and private industry. The New Bern Rotary Club arranged a busy agenda for the team that included tours of local businesses, industries, and visiting some of our wonderful New Bern area highlights.

The evenings were filled with Rotary events, and spending time with the host families. For Asha, that meant coming to the office one evening while I attended a Committee meeting. Thanks to George Kramer, from Craven Community College, it worked out perfectly! George met with Asha to discuss how manufacturing is rapidly changing due to technological advancements all over the world.

With India recognized as a

major global player, there were some interesting conversations in regard to education and training our workforce. Like the US, India is taking extra measures to ensure that its citizens have opportunities to advance in education.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to George Kramer for taking the time to discuss vocational and manufacturing issues with Asha. She enjoyed speaking with him and they were both able to gain insights from across the globe.



"If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows that he is a citizen of the world, and that his heart is no island cut off from other lands, but a continent that joins to them." ~Francis Bacon

Vision East Strategic Planning Retreat

Board and staff from 4 Boards joined forces to address workforce issues facing the area.

The Vision East Strategic Planning Retreat combined the efforts of the Cape Fear, Eastern Carolina, Lumber River, and Region L Workforce Development Boards.

The Vision East Retreat was held at Sunset Beach, NC on April 29 & 30 and was facilitated by John Metcalf, of Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW). There were over 40 Board members and staff in attendance, from the four workforce development boards (WDBs).

attendance were Alex Asbun, Jerome Shepard, Gary Mastrodonato, Patricia Vinson, Thelma Simmons, Bonnie Carlton, Kimsey Welch, Phil Prescott Jr., Frank Emory, and Ralph Leeds.

Through the combined Vision East Retreat, the WDBs agreed that they share commonalities in regards to the needs, goals, and issues faced by the region's workforce. With this in mind, Vision East developed a unified mission, vision, and key strategies.

It was the consensus of all in attendance that it makes sense to

combine efforts and work together to identify and address workforce issues.

The Vision East WDBs are currently devising a marketing committee, which will be responsible for creating and implementing a unified marketing strategy.

The Retreat was just the beginning of Vision East! Board members and staff from the partnering WDBs are all excited about working together and using the knowledge and insight of each other as momentum for achieving workforce goals.



"Our fundamental reason for a workforce board to exist is to identify and facilitate the management of workforce issues, and to convent the relevant organizations and individuals to address them." (CSW)

Vision

Our vision for the eastern counties of North Carolina is a highly skilled workforce with an educational attainment level that meets the needs of the 21st Century workplace, so that local firms can compete in a technologically advanced global economy.

Value Added

We add economic value to our communities by ensuring that quality education, job training, and employment opportunities are available for job/training seekers and employers alike, thereby improving the quality of life for our citizens throughout Eastern North Carolina.

Mission

Our mission is to ensure that our workforce development system is customer focused, demand-driven and accountable in preparing our current and future workforce to meet the changing needs of a highly-competitive global economy.

Region L

VISION EAST
Workforce Development Boards

Eastern Carolina

Lumber River

- Key Strategies**
- Engage business and community leaders in addressing workforce issues and promote strategies to improve education levels and basic workplace skills.
 - Strengthen alliances with economic development to identify and address the workforce needs of current and future industries.
 - Implement a community awareness plan that promotes the WDB, JobLink Career Centers, and partner services.
 - Identify and implement effective employment and training strategies that result in employment opportunities for all citizens.

First Annual Youth Quiz Bowl

Thirteen teams competed in the Eastern Carolina Youth Council's first quiz bowl.

The Eastern Carolina Youth Council sponsored its first annual Youth Quiz Bowl on Saturday, March 12, 2005. The Quiz Bowl was held at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center from 10:00 am until 2:30 pm

Thirteen Local Area youth teams competed for prizes and trophies. The youth were motivated and excited about participating in this

academic competition.

Through this event, the participants were able to increase their knowledge and build upon their team work skills. The youth participants enjoyed the friendly competition and look forward to next year's competition. There were even several friendly comments as to who will take first place next year!

- This year's winners were:
- **1st Place:** Greene Lamp, Inc., Craven County (Noah Marcum, Angela Best, Lakeysha Croom)
 - **2nd Place:** Craven County Schools (Juanita Moore, leShia Campbell, Uriah Cannon, Lajoia Cannon, Kiameshya Miller)
 - **3rd Place:** Dobbs School (names are kept confidential)



Fourth Annual Youth Summit

With over 240 Local Area youth in attendance, this year's Summit was the largest yet!

The Eastern Carolina Youth Council hosted its fourth annual Youth Summit on Thursday, April 28 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center.

Attending the Summit were over 240 youth from the nine-county Local Area. The theme for the event was "We All Have Something to YELL About." The three workshops were "Commit to Get Fit," "What's Hot an' What's Not," and "Youth@Work."

Lunchtime entertainment was provided by Judy Crouell, from Dobbs Youth Development Center, who sang "Because of Who You Are."

The youth began their day with keynote speaker Tracy Williams, former Harlem Globe Trotter, who motivated and encouraged the youth to follow their dreams and achieve their goals.

"All that motivational speaking that he did about the future, I am going

to follow my dream to be a teacher," said Shakira Frazier, a Greene Lamp participant from Carteret County.

The youth also gave back to the community by donating non-perishable food items to the Food Bank of North Carolina. Over 400 pounds of food was collected at the Youth Summit for the Food Bank!

Once again, the youth declared the Summit a success and are looking forward to next year's event!



NC's Career Readiness Certificate Initiative

Creates a coordinated assessment system to addresses workplace skill requirements.

North Carolina's Career Readiness Certificate is being designed to offer a portable credential that confirms that an individual possesses basic workplace skills in reading, applied math, and locating information.

Other states such as Virginia, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Michigan have already implemented the Career Readiness Initiative with great success.

To earn a Career Readiness Certificate, individuals will be tested through WorkKeys, which is an

employability skills assessment system designed to help employers and individuals develop better workplace skills.

WorkKeys assessments are offered locally at Craven Community College and Lenoir Community College, however plans are to roll out this initiative Statewide.

As a result of the testing, individuals will be able to identify areas in which they need further training to obtain the certificate.

The Career Readiness Certificate is a component of an emerging statewide system of portable skills credentials. This initiative promotes the attainment of academic, employability, and industry/occupation specific skills in order to qualify for current and anticipated jobs in North Carolina. For more information about WorkKeys, visit www.workkeys.com.

Source: NC Community College System

Project HEALTH Trains Dislocated Workers for Healthcare Jobs

Lenoir Community College and the Lenoir County JobLink received grant.

Lenoir Community College and the Lenoir County JobLink Career Center received a Project HEALTH (Helping Empower, Advocate and Lead Through Health) grant, which is part of the President's High Growth Initiative, through the US Department of Labor's Employment and Training Division.

The Project HEALTH grant will be used to train dislocated workers for employment in the healthcare field. Project HEALTH also assists in portfolio development, job

experience placements, additional supplies and uniforms, and additional case management.

Project HEALTH is able to work with customers before, during or after Workforce Investment Act (WIA) assistance, or as a solo support source for dislocated workers.

Through Project HEALTH funding, a collaboration was formed with the Caswell Center. Caswell employs more than 650 Health Care Technicians. Project HEALTH

recognizes that the Lenoir County area has many dislocated workers who would like to secure employment at Caswell. Through the Caswell and Project HEALTH connection, potential applicants will be screened through a nationally recognized assessment program called WorkKeys.

The Lenoir County HEALTH Project is still seeking applicants and anyone wishing more information should call the project director Susan Gale, at (252) 527-6223 ext. 706.

Biotechnology Industry Continues to Grow in North Carolina

Plan aims to create 125,000 biotech-related jobs in North Carolina by 2023.

Gov. Easley appointed a committee to develop a plan for revitalizing North Carolina's economy through the biotechnology industry.

The plan sets a goal of creating more than 100,000 biotech jobs in North Carolina by 2023 and proposes 54 initiatives, which Easley promised to set priorities for and fine-tune in the coming months. The plan will cost more than \$390 million over the next five years.

The initiatives include tax credits and incentives to recruit new companies, investment grants and more money for university research,

workforce training efforts, and ways to improve primary and secondary education.

"I asked for the most aggressive plan," said Easley. North Carolina is among the top five biotech hubs in the world, he said, "but I believe we've only scratched the surface. We can go a lot deeper and further."

The biotech industry has grown about 10-15 percent per year. The plan's goal is to maintain that growth rate, which would mean 125,000 biotech-related jobs by 2023.

"My major question is: Do we

put all our eggs in one basket, or do we go for a more balanced approach," said Michael L. Walden, an economist at NC State University. Walden applauded Easley for thinking big, but he questioned whether industry-specific incentive programs are effective.

North Carolina is currently home to more than 150 biotechnology companies that employ about 18,500 and generate annual revenue of about \$300 billion. Most of the companies are in the Research Triangle, with other clusters in Charlotte, Triad, and Wilmington areas.

North Carolina's Eastern Region

Eastern Region partnership provides economic & marketing services for 13-county area.

North Carolina's Eastern Region is a multi-county partnership established by NC's General Assembly to promote economic development in a 13-county area of eastern North Carolina. It encompasses nearly 7,000 square miles and over 900,000 residents.

The partnership receives an annual operations appropriation from the state legislature. Activities are coordinated at the state level with the NC Partnership for Economic Development (NCPED) and at the local level with its individual county developers.

The Partnership, marketed as North Carolina's Eastern Region, promotes economic development through a mix of low-interest loans, a family of grant programs, marketing, business recruitment, Certified Industrial Sites, research, public relations, training and product development initiatives.

Eastern Region provides economic and marketing services for a thirteen county region in the east including: Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Nash, Onslow, Pamlico, Pitt, Wayne, and Wilson.



Eastern Region Holds Strategic Planning Sessions

Focus groups meet to develop & coordinate regional economic development plans.

On March 14-16, 2005, the Eastern Region, in partnership with the Councils of Government from Regions L, P & Q, sponsored Focus Group meetings in New Bern, Kinston, and Rocky Mount. These sessions were the first in a series of meetings designed to develop and coordinate strategic economic development planning across the region.

Participants at the first session included elected and appointed officials, school superintendents, community

college presidents, college and university leaders, transportation/RPO officials and workforce development representatives from across the region.

Subsequent meetings will involve county developers, region commission members, and chambers of commerce just to name a few. The data gathered at these sessions will be used by the Eastern Region to develop its Strategic Five-Year Economic Development Plan, as mandated by the NC General Assembly and the

Councils of Government, to update their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CED's) as required by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

From May through October 2005, a committee will come together and develop a plan for addressing the issues raised during these meetings. A final strategy is expected to be completed by late October 2005.

Source: The Eastern Region

Bush Administration to Redesign WIA and Decrease Funding

Proposal calls for a 10% cut and authority for Governors to redesign workforce system.

Republican leadership of the Senate plans to incorporate the Administration's WIA (Workforce Investment Act) Plus Consolidated Grant budget proposal into the Senate reauthorization bill, SB9.

While no details have been worked out yet, the Administration's WIA Plus Consolidated Grant proposal appears to mandate the consolidation of WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth programs, and Employment Services into one block grant.

In addition, Governors will have the option of a consolidation plus program that would include other federal job training and employment

programs, specifically Vocational Rehabilitation, Adult Education, Veteran's Employment & Training, Trade Adjustment Assistance Training, and Food Stamps Employment & Training. This would open the door for Governors to consolidate funding streams and redesign the workforce system.

The National Association of Workforce Development Boards (NAWB) is rallying to share the potential impact of the current WIA Plus Consolidated proposal.

NAWB Positions:

- NAWB does NOT support any proposal that re-opens the

governance structure of the workforce boards and its private sector membership or any proposal that give Governors increased authority to dismantle workforce boards at the local level.

- NAWB does NOT support any consolidation that results in cuts to local workforce area or does not result in increased flexibility at the local delivery area.
- NAWB will NOT support any proposal that gives Governors sole authority to design local workforce programs under WIA.

Source: www.nawb.org

"There's something wonderfully rewarding in being part of an effort that does make a difference."

~Brian O'Connell

Finding people to fill jobs doesn't have to be hard work!

That's why the JobLink Career Center provides recruitment solutions that are tailored to your business—no matter what type of industry.

We offer a wide range of products and services handled by our experienced employment professionals.

YOUR BUSINESS WILL BENEFIT FROM:

- ◆ Experienced workforce development professionals.
- ◆ Recruitment solutions tailored to suit the needs and culture of your business
- ◆ A wide selection of job-ready candidates

Labor Market Information

Labor Trends

Employee Training and Education

Hiring Incentives

Recruitment Assistance

Employment Solutions Tailored to Your Staffing & Budget Needs:

- ◆ Tax Credit and Hiring Incentive Information
- ◆ Resource for Job-Ready Candidates
- ◆ Employee Recruitment
- ◆ Employee Retention Assistance
- ◆ Rapid Response Consultations for Business Layoffs or Plant Closings
- ◆ Customized Training for Employees
- ◆ Workplace Literacy

North Carolina



Specialized Services for Employers

- ◆ Skills Assessment of Job Candidates—applicants or current employees can receive skills/aptitude testing through our JobLink Career Centers.
- ◆ ADA Accommodations—provides workplace modification assistance to employers who seek to help employees with disabilities.
- ◆ Workplace Literacy—an instructional program that addresses job-specific basic skills competencies.
- ◆ On-the-Job Training Programs—participating employers may be reimbursed up to 50% of the individual's starting wage rate during the training period.
- ◆ Customized Training—training modified to meet a company's specific workforce objectives based on job task analysis.
- ◆ English as a Second Language—provides English language instruction to non-native speakers of English at the workplace.

NC's JobLink Career Centers are an Equal Opportunity Employer/ Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
(TTY) 1-800-735-2962 (Voice) 1-800-735-8262

How Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Programs Can Help YOU...

The purpose of WIA is to:

- Increase employment, retention, earnings, and skill attainment of job seekers
- Improve the quality of the workforce
- Enhance productivity and competitiveness of the nation

WIA Programs Benefit Employers & Job Seekers—Call your Local JobLink Career Center to learn more!

Business Services Provided by JobLink Career Centers

An array of services are available to the business community at little or no cost.

JobLink Career Centers are user friendly facilities which provide employers, and job/training seekers, access to a variety of employment and training services. You will find workforce development professionals from various agencies—all under one roof!

- Looking for qualified workers?
- Seeking information about downsizing and how to help your employees find other jobs?
- Seeking information about education and training to enhance your

employees' skills?

- Looking for assistance in starting a business and/or expanding a business in North Carolina?

JobLink Career Centers provide employers a single place to list job openings and a single point of contact for finding qualified workers. There is no charge to register with your local JobLink Career Center. By registering, you will receive free access to workers in your area.

Job seekers from the Eastern Carolina region (Carteret, Craven,

Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico and Wayne County) are registered at their local JobLink and are ready to work!

The staff at your local JobLink Career Center can assist you with your search for qualified workers. Please contact your local JobLink Career Center to learn more about training and education opportunities that may be available to you or your workforce (see page 10 for your local JobLink's phone number).

Business Training Linked to Small Business Survival & Success

Analysis shows direct correlation between level of training investment and profitability.

An analysis by Coleman Management Services found that one area proven to result in long-term stability and expansion is business training. There is a direct correlation between the level of investment in company training and increased levels

of productivity and profitability.

Providing extra skills to employees leads to higher job satisfaction, which shows up in better corporate performance and business success.

The analysis also found that

less than 17% of the reasons cited for business failure are due to outside influences such as inflation or state of the economy.

For more information, go to <http://www.clomedia.com/common/newscenter/newsdisplay.cfm?id=3576>

Local Area Small Business Center is Recognized for Its Success

Craven Community College's Center was named *Eastern Region Center of Excellence*.

Craven Community College's Small Business Center was recently named the *Eastern Region Center of Excellence* and was one of three regional winners in North Carolina for its success in working with small businesses.

"Our Small Business Centers are providing remarkable assistance all across the state," said Willa Dickens, system's director of the Small Business

Network. "These small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and the counseling and guidance they receive at the local Small Business Center enables them to thrive."

Among the selection criteria for the regional winners were annual reports, services to the community, an exemplary example of assistance to a small business and an innovative approach.

Each of the state's community colleges has a Small Business Center, but only those that submitted a narrative detailing their activities, along with their annual report, were considered by the judges.

Congratulations to the Small Business Center at Craven Community College!

Source: *Sun Journal*