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Gov. Mike Easley announced he will seek new legislation in the 2008 session of the General Assembly to secure major manufacturing investments from existing industries in disadvantaged parts of the state.

"As our economy has globalized, our largest industries can now direct investments to areas of the country and the world where they can achieve the lowest production costs," Easley said. "My plan will create a state program to partner with local governments and secure commitments from major anchor industries to modernize operations and enhance their presence in North Carolina."

Titled "The American Productivity and Competitiveness Act of North Carolina," Easley's proposal would have the state partner with qualifying existing industries that commit to invest substantial amounts modernizing their facilities to ensure greater productivity and global competitiveness in their operations. The program would operate in a fashion similar to current incentive programs that require approval by the Economic Investment Committee and award grants measured by a portion of new taxes resulting from the investment and by training costs.

"The economy is changing

rapidly," Easley said. "Those companies that invest in technology and in a high-skilled workforce will succeed. Those which do not will fail. North Carolina wants to partner in success."

At least one North Carolina business has already signaled that a grant under the proposed legislation could secure its commitment to upgrade a major existing manufacturing plant in North Carolina to state-of-the-art status. "We have been briefed on Gov. Easley's proposed legislation which is an innovative, on-target program," said Steven Akey, Vice President of Government Affairs for Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC, which operates a large plant in Wilson. "It would be a major step forward in our ability to stay globally competitive in a changing economy by supporting worker training and encouraging investments to enhance productivity."

Grants would be available to manufacturing facilities that require assistance to modernize in the state and that employ at least 1,500 workers in high-paying jobs in Tier I distressed counties. Companies receiving grants would be required to maintain current levels of company jobs, pay wages that equal or exceed 140% of the county average wage, and provide quality

health insurance and benefits. They would also be required to maintain clean environmental and workforce safety records and not be delinquent on taxes owed.

A key feature of Easley's program would be a requirement that local governments partner with the state when awarding inducements for the company's commitment to invest. Current programs such as the One North Carolina Fund also require local government participation. State grants under the program would be measured against the income, franchise and sales tax revenues paid to the state as a result of the company's commitment to maintain and modernize operations, as well as the cost of training workers to operate new equipment and manage new lines of production. Companies could also receive refunds for near-term sales taxes on electricity and natural gas, which are scheduled to be phased out for all manufacturers as a result of legislation recently signed by the Governor. Qualifying companies that fail to follow through on commitments would see their benefits reduced or terminated, and companies that shut down facilities could be required to repay any incentives received under the program.

Source: Department of Commerce



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Bruce Parson, *Global TransPark, Economic Developer*
Debbie Beech Burrell, *FACILITATE, CEO*

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Wayne Brackin, *Tideland EMC, Job Training and Safety Director*

Wayne County

Bonnie Carlton, *KAN SEEK, Owner*
Steve Hicks, *Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, President*

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.

Mission

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

Value Added

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

Key Strategies

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



Director's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

Great things continue to be happening in Eastern North Carolina!

Recently, when talking with a colleague, we got on the subject of simple ways of making a difference in others' lives. When you think about it, just a friendly smile and a small act of kindness toward someone can reap tremendous benefits in making someone's day. Just letting someone go in front of you in the grocery store, or cut in at a traffic light is a simple act that renews our faith in humanity. Then there is our daily work. For those of us who work or serve on a local Workforce Development Board, we know our work is making a difference from the investments made in our local community. It is always so hard to summarize in one sentence what all we do, so simply put, **"we invest in people."**

For one, we advocate to our State and Federal leadership for investments to be made in our local economy. We ensure that training programs provide opportunities for those who would likewise not get to participate, be it a youth in need of intervention to remain on track in school, or to provide financial assistance to help them enroll in the local community college. We focus our efforts on low-income families and provide tuition assistance and other supportive services needed to ensure that they will be successful and return to the workforce with wages that help them become self-sufficient. For dislocated workers, we collaborate with our local Community Colleges and Employment Security Commission to leverage every ounce of funding to provide re-training opportunities through our JobLink Career Centers. We help local companies apply for Incumbent Worker Training grants to allow workers to train on the job. We partner with Economic Development and local Chambers of Commerce in special projects that highlight workforce development initiatives in our communities. We are working with our military installations to ensure training and employment opportunities are available for military spouses and veterans. With every opportunity that comes our way, we strive to bring workforce investments to our region; and with the low unemployment rates, we continue to see the return on our investments throughout the region.

Additionally, we partner with Economic Development and local Chambers of Commerce in special projects that highlight workforce development initiatives in our communities, and we are working with our military installations to ensure training and employment opportunities are available for military spouses and veterans. With every opportunity that comes our way, we strive to make a difference and bring workforce investments to our region; and with the low unemployment rates, we continue to see the return on our investments throughout the region.

In this newsletter, we are focusing on the workforce investments made in our community. On the front page, you will notice the press release from the Office of the Governor. This proposed legislation will help to secure manufacturing investments that will result in job opportunities in our distressed counties. On page 4, you will read more about the State's workforce investments, as we are preparing for more jobs in Craven and Lenoir counties. With a workforce trained and ready, we can expect to see a return on these investments in the coming months. Two great examples of how Workforce Investments are paying off are included on page 7, where you will be introduced to Laketa Jiminez of Goldsboro, and Cynthia Hayes of Warsaw, both participants of the WIA program, who are defining success on their own terms and giving back to their communities. On page 9, information is provided about efforts in support of our military families. In addition, on page 11, you will read about our most recent initiative for ensuring that our JobLink Career Centers are meeting the special needs of individuals with disabilities.

Throughout the State, our local Boards and JobLink partners are working together to add economic value to their 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 all North Carolina citizens.

In closing, I would like to say thank you and recognize our Local Elected Officials and Board of Directors. These dedicated men and women volunteer their time and unique leadership skills to ensure that Eastern North Carolina continues to see a return on these investments in our local communities.

May God Continue to Bless You!

Tammy Childers

Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization

When Congress returns from Summer Recess in September, WIA Reauthorization will (again) be under consideration. Resources that may be of interest to be familiar with the dialogue that will be taking place in Washington are found at: www.arboret.com/vision.htm. This is the Arbor Workforce Institute site and contains Bob Knight's newsletters. His August edition discusses Reauthorization, the proposed Fiscal Year 2008 Budget rescission and testimony given at the House Subcommittee hearing on WIA Reauthorization.

www.nawb.org. There is very recent posting of the August 22, 2007 letter from the Local Workforce Coalition (National Association of Counties, US Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, NAWB, National Workforce Association, and USAWorks). On the right side of NAWB home page, click on "Recommendations on Reauthorization of WIA from the Local Workforce Coalition" to see the detailed communication to Congressional Chairs.

www.nga.org The National Association of Governors website also has a letter to Congressional Chairs on Reauthorization. At the bottom of the home page, click "Federal Relations - Letters" and scroll to the July 17, 2007 letter with the joint recommendations of the NGA and National Association of State Workforce Agencies.

Source: Brenda Savage, DET

Governor Easley Announces Jobs For Craven and Lenoir Counties

One North Carolina Fund Grant Helps Commerce Overseas Corporation Locate Near Kinston

Gov. Mike Easley recently announced that Commerce Overseas Corporation will relocate to the Global TransPark in Lenoir County from California, creating 72 jobs and investing \$4.3 million over the next three years. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$75,000 One North Carolina Fund grant.

"Commerce Overseas Corporation's decision to move to North Carolina is a clear indication that our highly skilled workforce and business-friendly climate are attracting companies from across the country," Easley said. "The aerospace industry in North Carolina employs more than 23,000 people at 350 companies." Established in 1967, Commerce Overseas Corporation (COC) of Tustin, Calif. provides spare

parts support for U.S. manufactured military aircraft in more than 50 countries around the world. The company will move its headquarters and a warehouse, distribution and manufacturing facility to the Global TransPark. While wages will vary by job function, the average weekly wage of the new jobs will be \$721 plus benefits, which is higher than the Lenoir County average weekly wage of \$506 not including benefits.

"After more than a year and a half of careful evaluation, COC found North Carolina was its best choice," said CEO Chris Garville. "From the positive reception we received from everyone in the state to the warmth and friendliness of the local people, our choice was made. The beauty of the

state, the willingness of the workforce, the affordability of living and the 'Southern Hospitality' are added bonuses," Garville added.

Partners who helped make this announcement possible include the N.C. Department of Commerce, N.C. Global TransPark Authority, N.C. Global TransPark Foundation, Lenoir County, Neuse River Development Authority, Lenoir Community College, the Golden LEAF Foundation and the N.C. Aerospace Alliance. For more information about the company and employment opportunities, contact Steve Inabinet, Executive Vice President and General Manager at steve@CommerceOverseas.com, (714) 505-6410 or (252) 560-5422.

Source: Department of Commerce

One North Carolina Fund Grant Helps Carolina Technical Plastics Corp Expand in New Bern

Gov. Mike Easley also announced that Carolina Technical Plastics Corp. will expand in Craven County, creating 50 jobs and investing \$5 million during the next three years. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$75,000 One North Carolina Fund grant.

"Carolina Technical Plastics' decision to expand in Craven County is another example of the effectiveness of North Carolina's continued focus on providing a business-friendly environment that encourages businesses to succeed and expand," Easley said. "North Carolina is 12th in the nation for employment in the plastics industry and this announcement strengthens our reputation in this industry." Carolina Technical Plastics Corp. is a leading supplier of injection molded plastic parts, components and systems to companies in the home appliance and automotive industries. Carolina Technical Plastics is a subsidiary of Wirthwein AG of Creglingen, Germany.

The firm employs 70 at its facility in the Craven County Industrial Park in New Bern. While wages will vary by

job function, the average weekly wage of the new jobs will be \$600 plus benefits, which is more than the Craven County average weekly wage of \$563 not including benefits.

"We are very pleased to expand our business here in Craven County," said company CEO Udo Wirthwein. "It is a tremendous effort by a lot of people that this addition could be realized only four years after the start of doing business in North America. North Carolina is located in close proximity to our major markets and provides excellent support in many areas, such as workforce development."

The One North Carolina Fund assists the state in industry recruitment and expansion by providing financial assistance through local governments to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. One North Carolina Fund grants require and are contingent upon a local match. Through the use of this Fund, more than 25,000 jobs and \$3.5 billion in investment have been created since 2001. Other partners that helped make this announcement possible in-

clude the N.C. Department of Commerce, North Carolina's Eastern Region, Golden Leaf Foundation, Craven County, Craven Community College, Craven County Committee of 100 and the Craven County Economic Development Commission. "These kinds of announcements require cooperation from a variety of agencies," said state Rep. Alice Underhill (D-Craven). "I am proud of the unified effort made by the state, local and private groups that helped make this expansion possible."

"The General Assembly has provided policies that help growing companies bring more jobs to our communities," said state Rep. William Wainwright (D-Craven). "I am proud to have worked in the state House of Representatives to encourage these laws that promote economic development." For more information about the company and employment opportunities, contact Melissa Krauss, Human Resources Manager, Carolina Technical Plastics Corp. at (252) 634 2871 ext. 236 or krauss@ctplastics.net.

Source: Department of Commerce

Commerce Seeks Applicants for International Community Service Awards

Companies are Encouraged to Apply Before September 14 Deadline

State Commerce Secretary Jim Fain is encouraging North Carolina's foreign-owned companies that promote community service to apply for the N.C. International Community and Economic Development Awards program. The program is sponsored by the N.C. Department of Commerce.

"These awards recognize the contributions that our local, foreign-owned businesses make to our communities and our state," said Fain. "I am pleased that these companies call North Carolina home and are a significant part of our business community. It is important to recognize the role they and their employees play in making our state a better place to live."

To be eligible, a company must be

owned by a non-U.S. entity (51 percent or greater) and be doing business in North Carolina. Awards are given in three categories:

- Large firms with more than 500 employees.
- Mid-size firms with 150 to 500 employees.
- Small firms with fewer than 150 employees.
- Selection criteria include:
- Success and recognition of the business' community service programs.
- Executive leadership's commitment to community service.
- Corporate mission statement and values, as they relate to community

service.

- Employee participation and service involvement in the local community.

Completed nomination forms must be returned by Sept. 14. A selection committee will visit three finalists selected in each category. The winners will be announced at an awards luncheon in Greensboro on Nov. 15.

Individuals or organizations that benefit from local company activities can nominate companies for this award. Companies also can nominate themselves. For more information or to request an application, contact Jan Burge, NCICEDA Project Manager, at 336-884-8170.

Source: Department of Commerce

North Carolina's Incumbent Workforce Development Program Ensures that Today's Workers Can Meet Tomorrow's Challenges

North Carolina's Incumbent Workforce Development Program under the federal Workforce Investment Act broadens the scope of the state's existing incumbent worker initiative.

The Program provides funding to established North Carolina businesses to provide educational and skills training for current workers. It is designed to benefit businesses by enhancing the skills of employees, thereby increasing employee productivity and the potential for company growth.

Training in portable skills results in a more highly skilled and versatile workforce that contributes to North Carolina's ability to attract new business and creates an environment conducive to expansion.

Businesses interested in applying for Incumbent Worker Program funding can develop a training proposal in conjunction with the local Workforce Development Board. The Workforce Develop-

ment Board is responsible for administration, oversight, reporting, and monitoring the Incumbent Workforce Program.

Local employers are encouraged to contact the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board prior to completing the application for a brief Incumbent Worker Program orientation. This gives the company and the board staff the opportunity to:

- Review the Incumbent Worker Program Guidelines
- Highlight restrictions
- Discuss training priorities and needs
- Explain the contracting process and cost reimbursement
- Discuss the time schedule for application submission to the Commission on Workforce Development.

For more information, please contact the ECWDB office at 252-636-6901.

Source: ECWDB



Program Guidelines

Maximum funding for any training project is \$37,500. A business may apply for more than one grant as long as the total for all grants in a program year (July 1 through June 30) does not exceed \$37,500. This amount includes grants the business and any of its subsidiaries receive from one of 24 local workforce development boards located around the state. There is a lifetime maximum of \$50,000 per business entity.

The Incumbent Worker Training grant application and guidelines are available at www.nccommerce.com/workforce/



JobLink Announcements

The summer months proved to be very busy for local JobLink staff. Recently the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board received notification from Chris Rolfe, Chairman of the North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development that the following JobLink Career Centers have been re-chartered for a new three-year period.

Congratulations to the following JobLink Career Centers!

- Greene County JobLink Career Center has been re-chartered with a Level II non-comprehensive status.

- Wayne County JobLink Career Center has been re-chartered with a Level II status.

Special recognition for these accomplishments will be held October 17, 2007, at the annual Workforce Development Partnership Conference in Greensboro. The re-chartering guidelines were designed to establish a statewide policy that would allow for local flexibility in service delivery, while protecting our customer's minimum service expectations of the JobLink brand.

Pending approval for re-chartering is Carteret County JobLink which has applied for a Level II status, and the Craven County JobLink Career Center which has applied for a Level III comprehensive status, which reflect the highest level of achievement within the chartering process.

"We appreciate the efforts and the key oversight role of the members of the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, the Board staff, and the entire JobLink staff in your commitment to quality. We all must continue to work as a team to make improvements to our state's workforce delivery system." stated Chris Rolfe, Chairman of the North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development.

Source: ECWDB

Tis the Season for CHANGE.

Congratulations to our dear colleague and friend, Susan Walton, who recently retired from the JobLink/ESC Mount Olive office after 30 plus years of service. In addition to Susan's retirement, due to reduced funding, the Employment Security Commission has made the decision to change the hours for the Mt. Olive location. Beginning, Sept 1, the JobLink/ESC office will only be open on Monday and Tuesday 8:30-12 noon.

Congratulations again and thank you Susan, for your dedicated service to the citizens of Wayne County!



Susan Walton, Mount Olive JobLink/ESC

Congratulations are also in order to the following individuals:

Diane Ivey, formerly the Director of Special Programs and the Lenoir County JobLink, recently accepted a position at Wayne Community College as the Wayne County WORKS Coordinator.

Bobby Merritt, formerly the Director of Industrial Training at Lenoir Community College, has assumed the position of the Director of Workforce Development who also oversees the Lenoir JobLink Career Center.

Gray Gaskins, formerly the Pamlico County JobLink/WIA Coordinator has assumed the position as Curriculum & Faculty Support/Affirmative Action Officer at Pamlico Community College.

Christy Lewis, formerly the WIA Employment Consultant at the Craven County JobLink/ESC, has assumed the position at Pamlico Community College as the Pamlico JobLink Career Center Coordinator.

Pat Moss, who serves the ECWDB's Administrative Assistant, will soon be relocating the Sioux Falls, South Dakota to be near her family.

Congratulations to Everyone and We Wish You Great Success!

NC's JobLinks 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

Workforce Investment Successes

Laketa Jimenez and Cynthia Hayes -Defining Success on their own terms



Laketa Jimenez with Mike Cordell, WIA Career Counselor

Laketa Jimenez, Veteran, wife, mother and a recent graduate from Wayne Community College in the Registered Nursing Program, has started work at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

She came to the Goldsboro local

JobLink Career Center housed in the Employment Security Commission Office to inquire about working part time as a VA Work Study. She applied with the assistance of Mr. Billy Patterson, Veterans Employment Consultant, for the Work Study position in the Goldsboro Local ESC Office and was accepted. Her duties included assisting the Veteran staff with paperwork and filing duties, answering incoming telephone calls, re-routing them to the appropriate staff member or taking and delivering messages. Additionally, she assisted in searching for employment positions for veteran clients and reviewing closed Job orders for individuals that may have been hired, thereby assisting the agency to attain job placement quotas.

During this time she adjusted her work hours so as to meet her school and other obligations all the while attaining excellent scholastic standing. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Staff

assisted her with financial payments for schooling until she graduated in May 2007; and, eagerly worked with her in maintaining her goal as a Registered Nurse.

Her exceptional personable demeanor and cheerful attitude was infectious to all. She willingly assisted all who asked her and never shirked an assignment; but, eagerly pursued additional challenges when able. Prior to her graduation, she was selected for a staff position in the hospital, and was subsequently selected. She is an asset gained by the local hospital staff and the Goldsboro community in her position in the Pediatric Ward.

We in JobLink, ESC and WIA applaud her and wish her the very best.

Source: Bill Pate, Wayne County JobLink

"Mission of WIA"

...increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and, as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation."

Cynthia Haynes of Warsaw was the recent recipient of the JSCC Educational Office Professionals Scholarship in the amount of \$600. This award is presented by the James Sprunt Community College (JSCC) Educational Office Professionals organization through the JSCC Foundation.

Cynthia attends JSCC and is majoring in Medical Assisting. She is also a participant in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Dislocated Workers program.

Cynthia often states that, "Had it not been for the support of the WIA program and staff of the Human Services Programs Department and the Duplin County JobLink Career Center, she would not have been able to achieve the numerous accomplishments she has in

the last year." She also made the President's List last semester and has made the Dean's List on other occasions.

After working at Amital Spinning, Cynthia was laid off along with 40 other employees. At that point, Cynthia decided that she wanted to come back to school and get a degree in a field that had above average job outlook and she saw that in the Health Field. She loves working with people and decided Medical Assisting would allow her to nurture that gift.

Not only is Cynthia a full-time student, but she volunteers in her community. Recently she began serving meals to homebound elderly persons as an extension of her love for people.

Cynthia, congratulations on your many successes!!



Cynthia expects to graduate in May 2008.

Source: Renita Allen, JSCC

2007-08 School Year Brings Changes and A Record Number of Students to NC Schools

The 2007-08 school year began this week with a record number of students, 1.46 million, in North Carolina's 115 public school districts and 98 charter schools. In addition to the growing number of students, the state's public school system is ushering in a number of new programs and policies.

"This year is already a good one for North Carolina schools," said State Superintendent June Atkinson. "Thanks to the work of Gov. Mike Easley, the General Assembly, and the State Board of Education, we are building a strong framework of support for students to enter school successfully and to graduate with college experiences already under their belt."

In the 2007-08 school year, several new initiatives are beginning or expanding to provide students with additional learning opportunities and academic support.

- More at Four, the preschool preparation program to help needy children ready themselves for kindergarten, will add 10,000 new students this year, bringing the program total to 28,655.
- Learn and Earn, the program that provides high school students with the opportunity to complete an associate's degree in exchange for a fifth year of high school, expands to 43 schools this year.
- Learn and Earn Online is launching this fall, providing students in participating public schools with the opportunity to take community college or university courses online through their local high school. This gives students the option of securing college credit at no charge to them while they are still in the supportive environment of high school. Learn more at www.ncpublicschools.org/learnandearnonline/.
- The NC Virtual Public School began operations in the 2006-07 school year, and is being strengthened this fall. It provides 78 online courses for students who may need an online option to take a particular course. The most common reasons for using NCVPS include scheduling difficulties

at the local high school or a shortage of qualified teachers in courses that are less common. The NC Virtual Web site is at www.ncvps.org.

- Beginning this school year, middle school students who successfully complete a high school-level mathematics or second language course will be able to count that toward their high school credits. Students continue to be strongly encouraged, however, to take mathematics each year of high school as preparation for college success.

- Funds (\$5.4 million) were allocated this year to support 100 additional school-based literacy coaches to be placed in schools that have an eighth grade class. Coaches will provide research-based teaching practices and professional development to assist teachers.

- Work begins this year to enhance the technology infrastructure for public schools. The General Assembly provided \$12 million to support the implementation of a new state-funded and supported information technology infrastructure for local school districts. The 2007-08 school year also is one of transitions.

- Kindergartners in North Carolina have been required to turn 5 on or before Oct. 16 for decades. That is changing in 2009-10 when kindergartners will be required to turn 5 on or before Aug. 31. For the 2007-08 school year and for the 2008-09 school year, the old Oct. 16 birthday deadline remains in place.

- High school students who began ninth grade in 2006-07 came in under new graduation requirements. In addition to having to complete one of four courses of study – College Prep, College Tech Prep, Career Prep or the Occupational Course of Study – this group of students is required to pass the five core end-of-course tests (Algebra I, Biology, English I, US History, and Civics and Economics) and successfully complete a graduation project. These standards will be in place for high school students who

enter ninth grade in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. To view these standards, please go to <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/graduation>.

Ninth graders who enter high school in 2009-10 will have a new set of standards to meet. Beginning with this group of students, high school standards have changed to the Future-Ready Core. These standards require students to complete 21 units/courses including four units of English, four units of mathematics, three units of social studies, three units of science, one health/physical education unit and six elective units. Within their electives, students are strongly recommended to take a core concentration of four units within one focused area that is aligned with the student's interests and goals after high school. The requirement to pass the five core end-of-course tests and a graduation project remains. Also, the Occupational Course of Study continues to be an option for some students with disabilities, just as it is today.

For more information on these changes and the new school year, please contact the Communications division, NCDPI, 919.807.3450.

Source: dpi.state.nc.us

***"Education is the
most powerful weapon
which you can use
to change the world."***

- Nelson Mandela

North Carolina Supports Military Children

Information Worth Sharing

Dear Friends,

Since September 11th, North Carolina has experienced the largest deployment of military personnel since World War II. With more than 120,000 military families living in our state, including the National Guard and Reserve, there are thousands of children who are struggling with the separation from one or both parents during this difficult time.

Just as spouses take on additional responsibilities at home when their husband or wife is deployed, teachers can provide stability and a normal routine for children who are dealing with the stress and other problems caused by deployment.

To help our educators identify and assist these students, my office, in partnership with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and the N.C. National Guard Family Readiness Program, has developed this web site, www.ncpublicschools.org/militarysupport.

The site provides a variety of resources to help public schools be supportive to military families. Links on the site explain what deployment is and how it affects families, describe stress indicators so teachers can identify students having problems, and direct the user to numerous resources such as the N.C. National Guard Family Programs Resource Guide, [North Carolina Supporting Military Children](#) (pdf, 961kb).

I encourage you to use this site and share it with other educators. North Carolina has six major military installations and the fourth largest number of military personnel in the nation, including more than 30,000 National Guard and Reserve members who live throughout the state. That means educators and administrators in all school districts, not just near military bases, must work together to help students adjust and focus on learning during the deployment of a parent.

Mary and I want to thank the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for hosting this website and the North Carolina National Guard Family Programs Office for its support of the content on this page. We also want to thank the brave men and women who honorably serve our state and nation, and we pray they will all return safely home.

Governor Mike Easley



*Open Roads
Open Minds:
NC's
Workforce
Journey*

Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel
Joseph S. Koury
Convention Center
Greensboro, North Carolina

October 17-19, 2007

Registration & Preliminary Agenda
Information Inside!

Or Online at:
WWW.NCWDTC.COM
NC Partnership Conference Info

Looking for Employees?

Attend the Local Job Exchange for Retirees

The New Bern Area Chamber of Commerce, together with Craven Community College will host their 8th annual Job Exchange for Retirees, scheduled from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, October 11 at the Mary Date Bender Continuing Education Center on the campus of Craven Community College in New Bern.

The Chamber has long recognized the need for business owners for skilled and experienced employees, and many retired have retired from successful careers and are interested in investing their skills in a local community.

The Job Exchange for Retirees

offers your business the opportunity to connect with these qualified, reliable employees. Last year's event attracted more than 225 individuals who visited with 28 businesses. Several businesses successfully filled vacant positions while others left with a list of qualified applicants for future openings.

Retirees (age 50+) are invited to attend this free events, created to connect active, outgoing retirees with local businesses who are looking for workers on full, part-time, seasonal or volunteer basis.

Source: New Bern Chamber of Commerce

Ninth Annual Job Fair Held In Jacksonville

Over a 1,000 people attended the ninth annual Onslow County Job Fair recently held in Jacksonville. The annual event was sponsored by the Marine Corps Community Services, the city of Jacksonville, and Coastal Carolina Community College. More than 100 employers from a variety of industries from inside and outside Onslow County participated. Jeff Nardo, career services coordinator for Coastal Carolina Community College, said the attendance was in the range of numbers from previous years. Nardo said he has found that usually 15 to 20 percent of attendees get a job out of the fair. "That's actually double the national average," he said.

Source: CCCC

NCcareLINK –

Your Connection to Up-to-Date Information About Programs and Services Offered Across North Carolina

People who use the Internet have a new resource for finding the health and human services help they need in North Carolina.

NCcareLINK, an Internet-based starting point, is designed to help people who are looking for services for themselves, loved ones or someone they are assisting. It is a way to overcome one of the most frustrating challenges faced every day by people who need assistance – finding the right starting point to get help, and then finding the help that they need.

The Web site is available at www.NCcareLINK.gov.

“This is truly a leap forward in the provision of assistance to those who may not know where to turn for help in – and near – their communities,” said Melodee Stokes, director of the N.C. Office of Citizen Services.

“With this Internet tool at their disposal many of our citizens can now seek the resources they need and save time and effort while they do it. They can connect at their public library, from their Area Agency on Aging, or from the privacy and convenience of their

homes.”

The service is a partnership of state agencies and local information and referral services under guidance from the N.C. Division of Aging and Adult Services and the Office of Citizen Services, both elements of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. It is provided through a network of 23 Internet hubs across the state maintained by local Departments of Social Services, Area Agencies on Aging, Emergency Management offices, local government, non-profit and faith-based groups. The goal: to provide public access via the Internet to helpful resources available to citizens. The effort is supported by an Aging and Disability Resources Center grant.

The service provides up-to-date information about what is available in all North Carolina counties via a user-friendly web site. The NCcareLINK site provides space where people can save information as they compile options to help meet special requirements ranging from assistance for people with disabilities to those who may be looking for help with housing, health care and transportation.

Key features built into the system are designed to meet people's short-term and long-term needs, a decision tool to help guide visitors to useful information and a hot topic area for posting of timely information that may be useful for people whose situations can be affected by critical changes in weather or government assistance, such as Medicaid.

NCcareLINK provides many of the same information and referral services that are provided by telephone from specialists in the Office of Citizen Services through the toll-free CARE-LINE, as well as many information and referral programs across the state.

People with questions or comments may send e-mail to: NCcareLINK@ncmail.net. People in need of assistance who are unable to access the web-based service may still access the CARE-LINE by telephone for assistance at the same toll-free numbers: 1-800-662-7030 (English/Spanish), or 1-877-452-2514 (TTY).

Source:

Got Internet? Need Services?

North Carolina's web-based information and referral service is ready to serve you.

Find the right health and human services assistance with access to statewide information available through NCcareLINK, your connection to up-to-date information about programs and services offered across North Carolina.



Search your virtual directory
of community resources:

www.NCcareLINK.gov

For assistance or more information,
call the N.C. CARE-LINE,
1-800-662-7030 (English/Spanish)
1-877-452-2514 (TTY).

NCcareLINK is a partnership involving agencies within state government,
and local and community-based information and referral services.

Vision East Workforce Development Board Partnership to Receive \$474,000

Funds will Support a Regional Disability Program Navigator Initiative

The Disability Program Navigator (DPN) initiative was launched in 2002 as a joint effort of the US Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). The most recent grant awards to additional states, including North Carolina, provide the opportunity for Disability Program Navigators to assist JobLink Career Centers under a state-wide cooperative agreement grant.

The DPN initiative's primary objective is to increase the linkage between employers and individuals with disabilities by enhancing the connection between employers and Workforce Development Boards through JobLink Career Centers. This collaboration among USDOL, SSA, North Carolina's Workforce Development Boards, and JobLink Career Center partners will facilitate access to programs and services that will enable the entry or re-entry into the workforce of people with disabilities. Navigators will assist JobLink Career Center staff in obtaining and demonstrating comprehensive knowledge and skills to assist individuals with disabilities to "navigate" through available programs and services. Navigators will also work to improve career advancement of job seekers with disabilities and increase linkage to the business community.

The Disability Program Navigator initiative will enable the Local Workforce Development Areas to enhance coordination of local services for job seekers with disabilities by establishing Navigator positions to facilitate universal access to the JobLink Career Center delivery system. The JobLink Career Centers' ability to provide comprehensive, seamless, integrated employment services to job seekers with disabilities will increase as a result of this Initiative.

The eight Board's who comprise the Vision East Workforce Development Board Partnership have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement and will jointly hire four Navigators to serve 42 eastern North Carolina Counties. The Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board will serve as the fiscal agent for this regional initiative.

Navigators will be available to assist with training and ongoing technical assistance needed to develop expertise regarding issues that impact job seekers with disabilities, including beneficiaries of Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income. The Navigators will coordinate efforts with the NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and other providers of service to persons with disabilities in their areas.

Source: ECWDB

President Signs America COMPETES Act

A Major Step Toward National Innovation Agenda

On Thursday, August 9, 2007 the President signed into law: H.R. 2272, the "America COMPETES Act" or the "America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act," which authorizes various programs at the National Science Foundation and the Departments of Energy, Commerce, and Education intended to strengthen education and research in the United States related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The "America COMPETES Act" is a bipartisan legislative response to recommendations contained in the National Academies' "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" report and the Council on Competitiveness' "Innovate America" report. The bill is similar to the "National Competitiveness Investment Act" that Senators Frist, Reid, Stevens, Inouye, Domenici, Bingaman, Enzi, Kennedy, Ensign, Lieberman, Alexander, Mikulski, Hutchison, and others introduced in September, 2006.

The America COMPETES Act focuses on three primary areas of importance to maintaining and improving United States' innovation in the 21st Century: (1) increasing research investment, (2) strengthening educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics from elementary through graduate school, and (3) developing an innovation infrastructure.

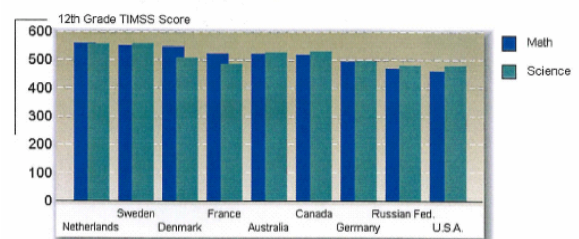
Source: whitehouse.gov

High School Students Underperform in Math and Science

USA Ranks Ninth in International 12th Grade Mathematics and Science Assessments.

High School Senior Students Underperform in Math and Science

International 12th Grade Mathematics and Science Assessments



Source: IEA, Third International Math and Science Study.

ECWDB Staff:

Tammy Childers, Executive Director
Robert Kehres, Assistant Director
Lisa Harvey, WIA Coordinator
Trina Hale, Accounting Technician
Joe McCarthy, Youth Coordinator
Pat Moss, Administrative Assistant
Debbie Simpkins, Fiscal Monitor

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Youth Council Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
October 2, 2007, 6:00 pm

JobLink Committee Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
October 11, 2007, 6:00 pm

Adult/Dislocated Worker Service Provider Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
October 11, 2007, 10:00 am

NC Partnership Conference

Joseph S. Koury Convention Center
Greensboro, NC
October 17—19, 2007

WIA Oversight Committee Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
October 18, 2007, 6:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
October 25, 2007, 6:00 pm

Annual Recognition Banquet

at the Riverfront Convention Center
November 1, 2007



PFC Joseph McCarthy, Jr.
serving in South Korea



Airman, Kenneth Childers, Jr.
serving aboard the USS Kitty Hawk

Veteran's Day November 12, 2007

Veteran's Day, is set aside to
Thank and Honor all those who
Served Honorably
in the Military
In Wartime or Peacetime. It is
celebrated on
November 11th, which is the
Official end of the first
modern Global Conflict in WWI
in 1918.

Please take a moment
to thank a local Veteran for their
sacrifices and service to our
Great Country.

Also please keep our active-duty
servicemen and women in your
hearts and prayers
during these uncertain times.