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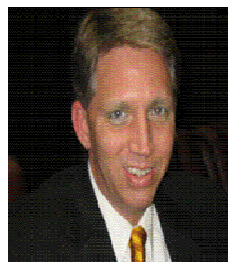
*"In every community there is work to be done. In every nation there are wounds to heal. In every heart there is the power to do it."*

-Marianne Williamson

On December 6, the State Board of Community Colleges voted unanimously to select Dr. Scott Ralls to succeed H. Martin Lancaster as president of the North Carolina Community College System. Dr. Ralls will assume the presidency on April 1, 2008. He will be paid an annual salary of \$275,000.

Ralls, who is 43, has served as president at Craven Community College for the past five years. Prior to that, he was the vice president for Economic and Workforce Development at the NC Community College System, director of Economic Development at the System Office, and a director at the North Carolina Department of Commerce. He obtained a Ph.D. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology and a Master of Arts, Industrial/ Organizational Psychology, both from the University of Maryland, and a B.S. in Industrial Relations and Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Ralls is the son of a Methodist minister who moved his family around the state. He told the board he knew North Carolina and would "work hard for its people and for you. I won't let you down." He added that as a community college president, he sees the "little



Dr. Scott Ralls

miracles" on his campus every day. "I see what role our colleges and the System play in changing lives."

"This is the most important decision this Board will have to make...in this best period for education," said Board Chair Hilda Pinnix-Ragland as she convened the board meeting.

The full board conducted the interviews of the three finalists in closed session. The board returned to open session to conduct the final vote and announce the choice of Ralls. Pinnix-Ragland said, "This is a day we will look back on with pride. We look forward to working with Dr. Ralls as he carries the System forward."

He has been president at Craven since 2002. His wife, Lisa, is an independent marketing consultant for biotechnical, travel and transportation companies. He has two boys, Benjamin, 8, and Lucas, 6, who attend Bangert Elementary.

"I believe I'm in a no-lose situation," Ralls said. "This changes nothing about what I believe about New Bern. As I've indicated all along, my family absolutely loves this area and has adopted it. If you will, the state job is just a higher calling."

Ralls said he will work to build a great team of system officials if the state offers the president position and he accepts it.

There are 58 community colleges in the state system. Ralls will be the seventh president of the third largest system in the country. The North Carolina Community College System enrolls more than 800,000 students in 58 comprehensive community colleges. Internationally recognized for the scope and quality of its programs, the System is North Carolina's primary provider of workforce preparation and adult education.

For more information please visit :[www.nccommunitycolleges.edu](http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu)

**Congratulations  
Dr. Ralls!**



## Board of Directors

### Officers

Joseph Wiggins, *Chief Elected Official*  
Don Harris, *Chairman*  
Mike Kraszeski, *Vice Chairman*  
Judy Darden, *Secretary/Treasurer*

### Carteret County

Mike Kraszeski, *Atlantic Veneer, Vice President*  
Dave Inscoe, *Carteret County Economic Development, Executive Director*  
Dwayne Oglesby, *Fleet Readiness Center East, Lead Training and Development Specialist*

### Craven County

Tom Taylor, *Aflac Insurance, Retired Executive*  
Kimsey Welch, *Vocational Rehabilitation, Director*  
Ronald Knight, *Communications Workers of America*

### Duplin County

Alex Asbun, *Duplin Gen. Hospital, Director of Latino Health Care Access*  
Woody Brinson, *Duplin County Economic Development, Executive Director*  
Thomasina Williams, *RASS, Business Owner*

### Greene County

Bud May, *Greene Lamp, Inc., Executive Director*  
Judy Darden, *Darden Bookkeeping, Owner*

### Jones County

Frank Emory, *Emory Construction, Owner*  
Thelma Simmons, *Jones County DSS, Executive Director*  
Norma Sermon-Boyd, *Jones County Partnership for Children, Director*

### Lenoir County

Brantley Briley, *Lenoir Community College, President*  
Bruce Parson, *Global TransPark, Economic Developer*  
Debbie Beech Burrell, *FACILITATE, CEO*

### Onslow County

Don Harris, *Stanadyne Diesel, Retired*  
Ralph Leeds, *Employment Security Commission, Manager*  
Mona Padrick, *Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce, President*

### Pamlico County

Jason Hannah, *Hannah Service Center, Owner*  
Carla Byrnes, *B & B Yacht Designs, Owner*  
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 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace, so that local firms can compete in a technologically advanced global economy.

### Mission

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

### Value Added

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

### Key Strategies

- 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,

Happy New Year! January is a time for new beginnings. As is the case, for Craven Community College President Dr. Scott Ralls, who this Spring will assume his new position as the President of North Carolina's Community College System. Dr. Ralls, we wish you continued success as you lead our State's Community College System.

January is also a time for reflection. On the following pages, you will see how we came together at our annual banquet to celebrate the events of the past year, honor the successes of our outstanding participants and employers, congratulate our Workforce Investment Act (WIA) service providers for exceeding performance goals, and recognize the accomplishments of our local JobLink Career Centers.

You will also get a glimpse into the lives of some dear people who volunteer to make a difference in their community. On this page, you will learn more about Mr. Don Harris, "Tiny" as he is known by his friends and colleagues, who has served in various volunteer capacities throughout his career, but the one that I know he is most proud of is serving on the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board. When asked why he serves on the Board, he will tell you that it is because of the lives that are changed through the Workforce Programs. Though Don has had some health challenges the past year, his commitment to volunteer service has never lagged. His leadership and dedication to public service is truly an inspiration to all who know him.

On pages 6 and 7, you will read about two more outstanding people who also have a passion for volunteer service; our board member, Carla Byrnes of Pamlico County, and Bill Ragland of Brevard County. Both always go above and beyond in support of local businesses and helping others. On page 8, you will read about a small group of individuals that came together to spearhead a local fundraiser to send our local Wounded Warriors home for Christmas.

As you read through this newsletter, I hope that you are inspired in some small way to volunteer in 2008 for a cause that you believe in. Be it volunteering to serve on a local Board, supporting a community project, working in a shelter, tutoring a student, delivering meals, teaching a class, etc.. There are plenty of avenues in which your service is needed. I am reminded of that saying, "never under-estimate what a small group of people can do, for indeed they can change the world." In some small way, each of us have the opportunity to help change someone else's world. How awesome is that!

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Eastern Carolina Job Training Consortium, and Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board of Directors who volunteer their time and expertise, and to our wonderful staff, WIA service providers, and JobLink partners for another successful year in serving the citizens of this region.

May 2008 be a great year for all!

Tammy Childers

## Chairman Don Harris Honored at Annual Banquet



Left: Board Member, Ralph Leeds, Chairman Don Harris, and Commissioner Lionell Midgett



Chairman Harris, and wife, Janet

Ralph Leeds, Manager of the Jacksonville Employment Security Commission/Onslow County JobLink Career Center, and Board Member presented Don Harris, Board Chairman, with the first "Don T. Harris Leadership Award" at the November Workforce Development Board Annual Banquet. Joining Mr. Leeds was Commissioner Lionell Midgett, Chairman, Onslow County Board of Commissioners, Mona Padrick, President of Jacksonville/Onslow Chamber of Commerce, and Tammy Childers, Executive Director, Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board.

Mr. Harris received a standing ovation and praise for his nearly 20 years of volunteer service, dedication and commitment, and numerous contributions to the local workforce development system. Prior to joining the Board, Don served in the United States Marine Corp for 23 years retiring as a Major. After retirement, he assumed the position of Materials Manager for Stanadyne, Inc. After two years, the company reorganized, and Don was promoted to Plant Manager, and held that position for over twenty years.

Mr. Leeds added humor as he recalled the history of the Board with long meetings, the transitions of the 90's, and Don's unwavering leadership through the past two decades. Don's wife, Janet, and daughter Mary accompanied him for the event. "I am very surprised and grateful for this special recognition," commented Chairman Harris. "I am very proud to be a part of this great Board and Local Area," he added.

When asked, Don will tell you that his passion for helping others succeed is what contributed to his successful career. "People are the greatest asset of any organization," said Harris. "It is my opinion that when you help people, you are following the direction that the Lord has laid out for everyone to accomplish," he added.

The award has been established in honor of Mr. Harris' two decades of dedication and commitment to the public workforce investment system through his selfless efforts of serving his community in a volunteer leadership role to ensure a skilled workforce for Eastern North Carolina's ever-changing economy.

Future Don T. Harris Leadership Awards will recognize outstanding individuals who serve as a volunteer by giving of their time, talent, and expertise, for the cause of improving the quality of lives of others through workforce development.



# Eastern Carolina WDB Holds 11th Annual Workforce Development Banquet

The Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board held their Eleventh Annual Recognition Banquet on November 1, 2007, at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center. Chairman Don Harris greeted the 200 guests who attended the special event. Those in attendance included State and Local Elected Officials, Board Members, State and Local Workforce Agency Representatives, and honored guests.

Tammy Childers, Executive Director for the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, served as the Master of Ceremonies. She congratulated the Board and partners for another successful year in workforce development. She stated that the Local Area's JobLink Career Centers served over 42,000 individuals and businesses during the past year. She also commented that the Eastern Carolina Local Area budget exceeded \$4.3 million which allowed for education, training, and employment opportunities for over 2,400 individuals through the Local Area's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth, Adult, Dislocated Worker and Incumbent Workforce Development programs.

Tom White, Director of Business Services, of North Carolina Department of Commerce's Division of Workforce

Development was the guest speaker and spoke of the importance of workforce development as it relates to North Carolina's economic development efforts. He commended the Board and JobLink Career Centers and partners for their proactive efforts in workforce development and serving the business community.

Bill Ragland, of the North Carolina Association of Workforce Boards offered remarks and shared the news of his recent retirement as the President of the Association, the position which he held for 20 years. In a surprise presentation, Mr. Ragland was presented with a special gift and recognition for his leadership and dedication to the State's Workforce Development System.

The Award's Ceremony included recognition of Workforce Investment Act Participants for overcoming obstacles that allowed them to excel in their employment and training goals. Award recipients were: Outstanding Workforce Development Adults - Adelina "Addy" Cuomo nominated by Carteret Community College, and Leigh Anne Williams nominated by North Carolina Employment Security Commission - New Bern; and Outstanding Workforce Development Youth - Lee Roshawn Gray nominated by Lenoir Community College, Lena Tanner nominated by Greene Lamp, Inc., and Carolyn

Skinner nominated by Craven County Schools.

Recognition was also given to Pamela Dorsey, Craven County JobLink Career Center for Outstanding JobLink Customer Service; Wanda Glosson, Carteret Community College for Exemplary Performance in a Workforce Investment Act program; Carteret County JobLink Career Center for their Outstanding Business Services Partnerships; and Lenoir County JobLink Career Center for their Outstanding Workforce Innovation Initiatives and Creative Partnerships.

In recognizing the region's WIA service providers, Tammy Childers announced that the Board will receive \$60,000 from the NC Division of Workforce Development for meeting USDOL's WIA performance goals; half of the funds will be awarded to the WIA service providers in recognition of their performance.

The event ended with special recognition of Board Chairman, Don Harris, who was presented with the first Board Leadership Award established in his honor for his past two decades of service to the Board and his community.



Tom White-Key Note Speaker



Bill Ragland, NCAWDB



Wanda Glosson, Commissioner Wiggins, Don Harris, Addy" Cuomo



Commissioner Wiggins, Don Harris, Leigh Anne Williams, Eric Cedar



Lee Gray, Tezra Egleton



Lena Tanner & Joy Williams



Commissioner Wiggins, Don Harris, Carolyn Skinner, Phyllis Smith



Commissioner Wiggins, Don Harris, Pam Dorsey



Commissioner Wiggins, Wanda Glosson, Don Harris



Commissioner Nelms, Commissioner Tyson, Senator Preston, Dan Williams



Commissioner Wiggins, Bobby Merritt, Dr. Dove, Don Harris



WIA Service Providers

## USDOL Sponsors “Driving Transformation” Forums

### Vision East Team Participates in Transformation Forum.

In November and December, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) sponsored two three-day forums that focused on transforming local workforce investment systems. The forums were designed to assist local teams in developing innovative strategies and action plans to further local planning efforts by offering learning opportunities where teams worked with professional facilitators, thought leaders, and peers in these five focus areas:

- Workforce System Structure and Governance
- Understanding the Talent Pool
- Diversification of Workforce
- Service Delivery Strategies for One-Stops Career Centers
- Change Management.

The 12 member Vision East Team consisted of representatives from Cape Fear, Cumberland, Eastern Carolina, Lumber River, Mid-Carolina, North-eastern, Turning Point, and Region Q Workforce Development Boards. Additionally, Elizabeth Kurzer, NC Division of Workforce Development, and Winston Tompoe and Pete Fleming representing USDOL's Regional Office in Atlanta, GA participated as resource staff to the Vision East Team. A total of 18 teams participated in the Seattle Forum, and 20 teams participated in the Chicago Forum, which included representatives from North Carolina's Future Forward Workforce Team located in western NC.

The forum theme was innovation fueling transformation for tomorrow's workforce system. These transformational forums represent part of a number of ongoing efforts by the Employment and Training Administration to support transformation of the public workforce system. The forums were structured to highlight innovations in workforce development, and were designed to support the creation of a shared vision built on innovative efforts at all levels to respond to the challenges of successfully competing in the global economy. ETA's goals for the forums were to bring together the key leadership from all levels of the workforce system that are critical to developing a vision to build a workforce



NC Vision East Team: Wayne Rollins, Region Q WDB, Carter Dozier, North-eastern WDB, Margie Parker, Cape Fear WDB, Pam Whittaker, Turning Point, Pete Flemming, USDOL, Walter Dorsey, Region Q WDB, Patsy Jones, ESC, Tammy Childers, Eastern Carolina WDB, Denise Day, MidCarolina WDB, Mona Padrick, Winston Tompoe, Juanita Pilgram, Dana Powell, Lumber River WDB, & Elizabeth Kurzer, NCDWD.



system of the future.

On day one, the forums were structured to highlight local innovations in workforce development and to allow local teams ample time to discuss and brainstorm new strategies with assigned facilitators, and various content experts, in five key areas. The first, is **Workforce System Structure and Governance**, included discussion around the role of the workforce board and the structure, and new key partnerships with economic development and others. The second, **Understanding the Talent Pool**, included a discussion around the role of talent in regional economies, demand driven principles, demographics of the 21st century talent pools and understanding how workforce system customers are really talent development drivers. The third, **Diversification of Workforce**, stressed the importance of mapping

and leveraging a range of workforce development resources and integrating private sector resources. The fourth, **Service Delivery Strategies for One-Stops Career Centers**, highlighted new service strategies for one-stop staff and focused on career counseling and assessments, roles of one-stop staff, business engagements, and integrated service for all special populations. The last centered on **Change Management** and leadership in organizational development.

During day two, the team spent time working with the facilitator in outlining the opportunities and regional challenges. Two areas of primary focus emerged for our Vision East team: 1) BRAC and serving the workforce needs of the military impacted areas, and 2) the need to develop a coordinated effort in outlining a Regional HealthCare Sector Strategy.

As Day three came to a close, the team members had outlined a strategy for next steps and agreed to continue the momentum of strategic planning. Staff from ETA also committed to assisting the teams by providing ongoing technical assistance and potential funding incentives to ensure plans reach implementation. At the close of the forum, ETA shared their vision for next steps to include ETA's plans to recognize those teams they believe have made progress in achieving their initial transformation goals by highlighting and showcasing their successes at the Workforce Innovations Conference planned for this Summer. With the Vision East Partnership already established, we look forward to sharing our successes.

By: Tammy Childers, ECWDB

*“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.”*

*-Immanuel Kant*

## Meet Carla Byrnes, Businesswoman, Board Member, and the Pamlico Chamber of Commerce's 2008 President

Traveling halfway around the world, the Byrnes family calls Vandemere their home.

Carla Byrnes was born with the proverbial silver spoon — but her early life was evidence that even seamless beginnings are not immune from personal tragedy. It took sailing halfway around the world for her to find true love, and half-a-world back again to find home — Vandemere.

She's several inches under 5 feet tall, and if she were an athlete, her coaches' clichés would likely include descriptive phrases such as feisty, sparkplug and dynamo. Manhattan-born, with a degree in interior design, she found passion in a rural Pamlico County volunteer fire department, rising to captain, and now serves as its president.

She and her Australian-born second husband, Graham, own a yacht-design business in a small corner of coastal North Carolina off Bay River. She is best-known daily around the 300-person village for walking her dogs and talking with anyone who wants some conversation. Her life began with grandeur, splendor and riches, with a father who was a top executive in the then thriving textile industry at the turn of the 1960s.

Memories of her mother were that of a sickly woman, who died of cancer when Carla was 8. Her father, a chemical engineer, was devastated by the loss of his wife and seldom if ever talked about it again. With her father throwing himself into his work and rising to vice president of the textile company, she became the surrogate woman of the household at an early age — traveling with him overseas and becoming the hostess-of-sorts for social and dinner parties. At her high school graduation, Carla remember, her father relented from his silence. "I wish your mother had been here today to see this," he said. But that was all he said. She married a Marine and moved to Eastern North Carolina in the mid 1960s.

Based at Camp Lejeune, the couple had two children, built a mobile home park in Bogue Banks, and she returned to school to get her degree in design. In the early 1970s,



Carla Byrnes

December, at its annual banquet, the Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce elected new officers, which attracted about 80 people to the event held at Taylor's Lodge and Camp Seafarer.

Vandamere businesswoman Carla Byrnes was elected as Pamlico Chamber's 2008 president. Byrnes said she was excited about the continued growth of the Chamber, which has now grown to 212 members, individual and businesses. "I would have had a lot more worries about taking the job if it weren't for our executive director Mim Miller, who is incredible," she said. "I'm excited. We have a strategic plan and our goal is to continue nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit here in Pamlico County."

Jerry Prescott of Pamlico Community College was elected vice president of growth and development. Ron MacLean, a Realtor who is head of the Pamlico County Rural Tourism board, was elected the 2008 treasurer. Barbara Ransome was elected secretary.

The Chamber has offices in the Pamlico County Heritage Center in Grantsboro. The Chamber board meets the second Tuesday of each month and the Chamber meets the third Thursday.

her first husband, now a civilian, decided they should sell everything and sail around the world.

She was reluctant, and her hesitancy ended in Israel. "He left with the children, me on the dock," she said. Graham Byrnes, the Aussie sailing boat-designer, was docked in the next slip. With him, they completed her first circumnavigation of the world.

In 1979 they became partners in his business and in life, and by 1984 landed for good in Vandemere. Banks laughed at a home loan for a couple with a new business idea, no credit history and a residence on a boat.

They paid cash for an 800-square-foot bungalow in the fishing village with creeks on adjoining sides of town. Over the years, they have more than doubled the living space. It has been a quiet and productive life for them, except for Carla expanding her community involvement beyond the fire department to teaching design for Craven Community College, serving on the Vandemere Planning Board and the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board and participating in the Pamlico Chorale.

While her father represented the largest textile company in the world at the time of her youth, the little girl from the big city doesn't want Manhattan in Pamlico. Entrepreneurship is her goal as the recently elected president of the Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce. She remembers joining when she and Graham moved to the county and they were among 20 or so in the fledgling Chamber. She just wants a good chance to help all the little folks trying to make a living. It has worked for her.

*Source: Charlie Hall, Sun Journal*



## Bill Ragland, President of North Carolina's Association of Workforce Development Boards Retires as President after 20 Years of Service

The challenge for many in today's workforce is realizing that a high-school diploma is often not enough if they want to earn a living wage, says Bill Ragland.



Bill Ragland

Bill Ragland remembers the major challenges many local residents faced a few years ago when large businesses, such as Ecusta and DuPont, closed. Unemployment in Transylvania County hit double figures. "There were no jobs to replace them," said Ragland. "And people who did find jobs worked for a whole lot less." Ragland is intimately aware about the challenges of job creation.

For the past 20 years, the owner of the Ragland Lighting Center in downtown Brevard has been president of the N.C. Association of Workforce Development Board, representing the State's 24 Workforce Development Boards that provides policy guidance for administration of local workforce programs.

In October, at the annual State Workforce Development Conference, incoming president Keith Norwood presented Ragland with a leadership plaque and a watch thanking him for over 20 years of service to the Association. "I have big shoes to fill", added Norwood, as he discussed the many contributions that Ragland has made to the Association over the years. Ragland was also presented with a plaque recognizing his "outstanding leadership and advocacy" for the past 20 years signed by Governor Mike Easley and Secretary Jim Fain. Additionally, Ragland was presented with a plaque by Roger Shackelford, Executive Director of North

Carolina's Commission of Workforce Development thanking Ragland for his continued leadership and service to the State of North Carolina. Ragland doesn't like to "toot his own horn," as he said, but he is particularly proud of the houndstooth hat recently presented to him by the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board. Ragland is a big University of Alabama fan, and a similar kind of hat was worn by the school's longtime head coach, Bear Bryant.

Prior to opening his store in 1973, Ragland was an aerospace engineer with RCA, working on intercontinental guided missiles. While working with RCA he was contracted with NASA to work at the satellite tracking station in the facility that now houses PARI in the Pisgah National Forest. He was involved with research and development, and information gathering from satellites in preparation for space exploration, possible moon landing, weather prediction, astronomical observation, satellite telephone and television relay. He relayed a telephone call from President Nixon in Washington, D.C. to the Apollo 13 astronauts upon their safe splash down in the Indian Ocean.

After establishing his business in Brevard, Ragland became involved in many community and civic activities. He was appointed to serve on the Communities in Schools Council and to the Land-of-Sky Private Industry Council in 1983. He was elected chairman of the Private Industry Council in 1985 and served as chairman until 1992. In 1987, Ragland won the Governor's Award for the Outstanding Private Sector Volunteer for his service to the state and the workforce development system.

In 1990, he was elected to the National Association of Private Industry Councils serving a six-year term. He served as vice-chairman of NAPIC in 1996. In 1992 he was instrumental in the merger of the Land-of-Sky Private

Industry Council with the Buncombe County Private Industry Council forming the Mountain Area Private Industry Council (PIC). With the establishment of the N.C. Governor's Commission of Workforce Preparedness, the PIC transitioned to the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board in 1997. He was also instrumental in helping to have legislation introduced and passed to establish the Workforce Commission as a department of the N.C. Department of Commerce in 1997.

Helen Beck is the director of the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board and has known Ragland for 25 years. "Mr. Ragland is an exceptional person," she said. "He has dedicated his last 25 years to the board at the national, state and local level. He has been an outstanding member and still is." The most challenging aspect about serving on the board is dealing with the complex federal regulations, Ragland said. The challenge for many in today's workforce, he said, is realizing that a high-school diploma is often not enough if they want to earn a living wage.

*Mr. Ragland,*

*On behalf of the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, I would like to say thank you for your unwavering commitment to NC's Workforce Development System. You have not only served as a leader and advocate for local Workforce Boards, you have touched lives and served as friend to many through the years.*

*May God Continue to Richly Bless You!*

*-Tammy Childers*

## 66 Marines, 4 Sailors and 50 Soldiers Go Home for Christmas!

More than \$173,000 raised in support of the local Wounded Warrior Leave Program.



Steve Tyson, Chairman, Wounded Warrior Christmas Leave Program Finance Group, and Wounded Warriors



Left to Right: Pictured with the 40+ Wounded Warriors at the Wounded Warriors Barracks in Camp Lejeune are – Military Order of the Purple Heart members Jim Casti, Jesse Torres, Mike Burris, John Cooney and Joe D'Eufemia. Also pictured is Wounded Warrior Christmas Leave Program Finance Group member - Charlie Mitchell.



Camp Lejeune Marine, Cpl. Brandon Sheppard, Ft. Lauderdale, FL receives check from Jim Casti, MOPH

In December of 2006, the national director of the Military Order Of Purple Heart (MOPH) visited the Wounded Warrior Barracks at Camp Lejeune. He wanted to give each of the Wounded Marines a special gift for Christmas. Some of these brave men have suffered debilitating wounds. When asked "What do you want for Christmas?", most said they just wanted to spend Christmas at home with their families. Because many of the brave Marines could not afford the cost of an airline ticket and planned to spend Christmas in the Wounded Warrior Barracks, the Wounded Warrior Leave Program was born which resulted in a local fundraiser being held in New Bern. That fundraiser, along with an e-mail that was circulated throughout the United States, raised enough money to send every Wounded Marine stationed at Camp Lejeune home for Christmas. Donations to this project bought airline tickets, hotel rooms, rental cars, bus tickets, whatever was necessary to get the wounded Marines and Soldiers together with their families and grant them their Christmas wish!

As 2007 came to a close, under the leadership of Craven County Commissioner Steve Tyson, a Wounded Warrior Finance Committee was established to spear-head the 2007 Wounded Warrior Christmas Leave Fund-raiser events. This time,

the vision was broader and the needs were greater as the numbers of wounded warriors more than doubled to not only include Camp Lejeune, but those who were residing at Fort Bragg.

Again through local efforts, the Wounded Warrior Christmas Leave Program proved to be a big success. The efforts resulted in raising over \$173,000, which was more than enough to send 4 Navy Corpsmen and 66 Marines from the Wounded Warrior Barracks of Camp Lejeune and 50 Soldiers from both Ft. Bragg's Warrior Transition Battalion and Womack Army Hospital home for Christmas - a grand total of 120! Christmas wishes were granted, as our brave Warriors were able to spend Christmas with their loved ones. This could not have been possible without public support and generosity. Major contributors include the Knights of Columbus (throughout NC) who donated \$50,200 and Tandemloc of Havelock, NC who donated \$5,000.

Mr. Jesse Torres, Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of North Carolina and a four man team of Purple Heart recipients handled the distribution of funds at Ft. Bragg, NC on December 13, and at Camp Lejeune, NC on December 14. Torres said "The checks ranged from \$200 for a soldier from Fayetteville, NC to over \$2100 for a Marine from

the state of Washington."

Steve Tyson, Chairman of the fundraising committee said "The vast majority of our contributions came from thousands of individuals, and were received in amounts of \$10 to \$25. I am very thankful and humbled by the generosity of Americans all across this great country.

For more information, please visit: [www.wwclp.org](http://www.wwclp.org)

As of January 7, 2008, there have been **4,210** coalition deaths in the war in Iraq, **3,904** of which have been Americans. At least **28,882** United States Troops have been wounded in action, according to the Pentagon.

In Afghanistan to date, there have been **741** coalition deaths, **471** of which have been Americans. According to the Pentagon, at least **1,848** U.S. Personnel have been wounded in action.

Source: CNN



## Marine Corps Works with Local and Regional Leaders as it Grows Headcount at Eastern North Carolina Installations

Region to add 25,000 active duty Marines, civilian staff and family members by 2011.

In October, Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue joined Marine Corps Maj. General Robert Dickerson and other officials in Jacksonville, N.C., to announce the formation of a Military Growth Task Force that will ready seven Eastern North Carolina counties for the arrival of approximately 25,000 active-duty Marines, civilian staff and family members at and around Marine Corps installations in the region through 2011.

"The addition of thousands of Marines and their families to this region is a big economic opportunity, and we welcome them to North Carolina," said Lt. Governor Perdue. "I have been working with community and base leaders to put into place the critical additional resources, like schools and housing, that this growth demands. We will be ready for them."

The Military Growth Task Force, organized under the auspices of North Carolina's Eastern Region (NCER), will include leaders from Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Jones, Onslow, Pamlico and Pender counties, all of which will be affected by growth at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, the Marine Corps Air Station New River and the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. Earlier, the Marine Corps unveiled "202K Plus-Up," a five-year plan to increase the nation's total number of active-duty Marines to 202,000 by 2011.

Growth would come through recruitment of new Marines and increased retention rates, explained Maj. General Robert Dickerson, Commanding General for Marine Corps Installations East (MCIEAST). "While the short term costs associated with absorbing the troop increase will be significant for the surrounding communities, they will be offset by the long-term economic growth in this area, which looks absolutely bright," said Gen. Dickerson, whose command includes oversight of Marine Corps facilities in the Carolinas, Florida, Georgia and Virginia.

The Military Growth Task Force will seek to tap federal grants for addressing

### SNAPSHOT: NC'S MILITARY ECONOMY

North Carolina's military installations and the goods and services required to support them play a critical role in our state's economy. Leveraging North Carolina's assets to grow our military economy will promote economic development and create new jobs. Underscoring this potential, if North Carolina could grow its share of U.S. defense procurement from 1.0 percent of the U.S. total to 1.5 percent by 2010, the state would earn an additional \$1.7 billion in defense contracts each year. Those contracts would support 30,000 new jobs and generate \$150 million in new annual state and local tax revenue.

- Six major military installations, over 100,000 active duty personnel. With an additional 46,000 civilian, reserve and national guard
- USCG Air Station Elizabeth City serves to protect the homeland: air station executes Homeland Security and Maritime Safety missions throughout the eastern Atlantic region; approximately 250 personnel
- Closing the Gap: third largest military state measured by boots on the ground, but only 38th in DoD contracts measured as a percentage of gross state product (source: Angelou Economics, 2005)
- 25th in the nation ranked by total DoD prime contract awards (source: DoD, 2006)
- Most recent study says Military has combined +\$18 billion direct economic impact on North Carolina, or 7% of gross state product (source: ECU Study, 2004)
- BRAC impact: FORSCOM and USARC relocation will result in increase of +20,000 active duty, civilian, contractor personnel and dependents (source: BRAC RTF, 2006)
- Additional increases: Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command (MARSOC) at Camp Lejeune and additional changes will result in significant gains
- No less than 12 economic development stakeholders working on military economy

Source: ncmilitary.org

community planning and infrastructure development needs spurred by the arrival of new Marines, their spouses and children, as well as the in-migration of civilian personnel and their families. "We'll be applying for funds through the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) that will help us ensure our schools, roads, public services and infrastructure can absorb incoming Marines, their families and support staff," explained Al Delia, president and C.E.O. of North Carolina's Eastern Region. But the Task Force will also work to ease the transition for new residents themselves, helping connect trailing spouses with job opportunities, for example. "Along with the immediate growth-related challenges, there will be exciting new possibilities for the region in terms of workforce assets, business creation and economic growth," said Delia.

The Marine Corps' growth plans at Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point and New River coincide with, but are unrelated to, changes at North Carolina military bases related to the most recent round of Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) recommendations. Military bases in the region are important job-growth assets, and their growth brings both direct and indirect value to the state's business community, according to Will Austin, executive director of the North Carolina Military Foundation, which seeks to highlight and enhance the presence of the military as economic engines for the state. "The Foundation looks forward to working with the Military Growth Task Force to ensure its success, and to support the growth of North Carolina's \$18 billion defense economy," Austin said. Established by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1993, North Carolina's Eastern Region works in partnership with state and local governments, educational institutions, business organizations and corporate allies in building economic capacity and effecting job creation and business investment across a 13-county region. For more information, visit [www.nceast.org](http://www.nceast.org)

Source: NCER

# WCC & Wayne County Public Schools Team up to Pilot WorkKeys

## 55 High School Students take WorkKeys Assessments Required for North Carolina's Career Readiness Certification.

On January 3 and 4, 2008, students enrolled in Wayne County's Early/Middle College High School (WEMCHS) at Wayne Community College became the first high school students in Wayne County, and the largest high school group in the Eastern Carolina Region, to participate in WorkKeys testing.

Fifty-five juniors and seniors took the three WorkKeys assessments required for North Carolina's Career Readiness Certification as part of a pilot program.

The pilot project was initiated by Wayne County Schools Superintendent Dr. Stephen Taylor with the assistance of Diane Ivey, Workforce Development Coordinator for WORKS (Wayne Occupational Readiness Keys for Success) at Wayne Community College.

Once the assessments have been scored and returned to students, the counselor and the work-based learning coordinator at WEMCHS will work with students to provide guidance and remediation for students who wish to improve their scores.

WIN for WorkKeys, made available to the students by the ECWDB, will be the training tool used to assist students in upgrading their skills. In February,

two other schools in Wayne County, Spring Creek High School and Southern Wayne High School, will offer WorkKeys assessments for Career Readiness Certification to seniors, bringing the total number of high school students in Wayne County participating in the pilot program to approximately 350.

This collaboration between the public schools and the community college grew out of the WORKS initiative. WORKS is an economic and workforce development initiative funded by Wayne County. The goals of WORKS include addressing skill gaps in the county's present and future workforce.

The WorkKeys job skill assessment system is used in high schools and community and technical colleges across the country to measure real-world skills. Many states, including Michigan, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Colorado, Illinois, South Carolina, Florida, and Virginia, have made WorkKeys an integral part of high school testing programs.

By Diane Ivey

### ABOUT CRC

North Carolina's Career Readiness Certification (CRC) is designed to meet the needs of both employers and job seekers in this transitioning economy.

For employers, the CRC offers a reliable means of determining whether a potential employee has the necessary literacy, numeracy and problem solving skills to be "job ready."

For job seekers, the CRC serves as a portable credential that can be more meaningful to employers than a high school degree or a resume citing experience in a different job setting.

As of 01/08/08, **10,144** certificates have been issued in North Carolina as follows:

Bronze	2,416
Silver	5,504
Gold	<u>2,223</u>
<b>Certificates Issued</b>	<b>10,144</b>

Of that total, 342 certificates have been issued within the Eastern Carolina Local Area as follows:

Bronze	58
Silver	198
Gold	<u>86</u>
<b>Certificates Issued</b>	<b>342</b>

For more information, visit [cenc.org](http://cenc.org)

## Free College Planning Guides

The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) is pleased to announce two new, free college planning guides developed by NACAC and TERI, The Education Resources Institute. The brochures, "Tips for Parents with Middle School Teens" and "Tips for Parents with High School Teens" are available in bulk and free of charge to high school counselors, community groups and other organizations that help students prepare for college. The initiative teens take in middle school will lay the foundation for their high school years and helps them understand the steps they must take – academic, social, and financial – to ensure a successful school experience. These brochures can be an excellent addition to a college planning or financial aid awareness night for your constituents. Download a free copy at [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org). To order free bulk copies, contact NACAC at 800/822-6285. If you have questions about the association, please contact [legislative@nacacnet.org](mailto:legislative@nacacnet.org).

## Congress Passes New Appropriations Bill

### Workforce Investment System to Receive Budget Cuts

After months of back and forth, Congress and President Bush finally reached agreement on a FY 2008 omnibus spending bill that provided \$473.5 billion in discretionary spending for FY 2008 and \$70 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill also provides \$7.5 billion for emergency items such as a border fence and drought relief and \$3.7 billion in contingent emergency funding for veterans. The final measure was over 1400 pages and incorporated 11 of the 12 spending bills, including the Labor-HHS-Education spending bill.

Programs under the Labor Department's jurisdiction received a 1.747% across the board cut. The final conference report (<http://www.rules.house.gov/110/text/omni/jes/jesdivg.pdf>) provides an explanation of certain sections of the bill (see pages 1-20 for the Labor Department section), along with a funding chart for DOL programs (pages 330-337). In addition to the across-the-board cut, the omnibus bill includes a \$250 million rescission of the unexpended balances remaining from funds for fiscal years 2005 and 2006 to carry out the Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker formula programs under the Workforce Investment Act. The bill language says that "the Secretary of La-

bor may, upon the request of a State, apply any portion of the State's share of this rescission to funds otherwise available to the State for such programs during program year 2007." In addition, the bill language also references instructions relating to this rescission in House Report 110-424, which outline a two-step calculation for the rescission:

"The conferees direct the Secretary to target the rescission within each funding stream so that the first funds subject to recapture are those program year 2005 and 2006 funds carried in to program year 2007 that are in excess of 30 percent of funds available in program year 2006 as of June 30, 2007. To arrive at the total amount within each funding stream, the balance of the rescission should be based on each State's remaining unexpended fiscal year 2005 and 2006 balances as of June 30, 2007, after adjusting those balances by any excess carryout identified in the first calculation. In addition, within each funding stream, the conferees direct that the Secretary ensure that the amounts rescinded within each State shall be from funds reserved for Statewide activities, and funds related to each local area, in proportion to the extent to which these balances, respectively, contributed to the amount to be rescinded in the State.

Consistent with these specifications, the conferees direct the Secretary to carry out the rescission in a manner that will minimize burdens on States and local areas.

To achieve that goal, the conferees further direct that it is intended that the requirements of sections 128, 133 and 134(a)(3)(B) of WIA relating to cost limits and to the applicable percentages of funds that may be used for Statewide activities, rapid response, and allocations to local areas, be applied by the Secretary only with respect to the initial allotments received by the State from fiscal year 2005 and 2006 funds and that those requirements are not intended to be applied based on the amounts remaining available to the States after this rescission has been carried out." According to Danny Giddens, NC Division on Workforce Development, "We have a number of questions about how the rescission will be computed and when it will take effect and will be working with our Federal partners to get these answers. As soon as we can ascertain the impact on both state and local funds, we will share the information with you."

Source: Danny Giddens ,

NC Dept. of Commerce, Article from National Governor's Association

### Skills2Compete.org Releases Report on Candidate's Public Positions on Workforce Education Issues.

Skills2Compete recently released its nonpartisan report on presidential candidates' public positions on workforce education issues. The analysis examines candidate positions in relationship to three issues that are core to the Skills2Compete vision: the forgotten middle of the skilled labor market, the current workforce, and diverse forms of vocational training as well as sector approaches.

Sources for the report include published policy platforms, policy speeches, or statements to the press as well as policies promoted by candidates while in public office. The analysis includes a comparison of candidates' visions for workforce education and their attention to the three Skills2Compete priorities as well as summaries of each candidate's public positions on issues affecting the creation of a skilled workforce.

**Be Informed: Visit [www.Skills2Compete.org](http://www.Skills2Compete.org)**

### Request for Proposals

The Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc. has released a Request for Proposals (RFP's) for operation of programs to be funded by Title I of the Workforce Investment Act for Adult and Dislocated Worker Services in Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, and Wayne Counties. The RFP may be picked up at the Eastern Carolina WDB office, located at 1341 South Glenburnie Road, New Bern, NC, or emailed by request. A bidders' conference for the Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs will be held on **January 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.** to answer questions. Proposals must be submitted by **4:00 p.m., February 8, 2008**. Contracts will be awarded based on funding availability. For more information, contact Ms. Tammy Childers at (252) 636-6901, or e-mail at [admin@ecwdb.org](mailto:admin@ecwdb.org).





### **ECWDB Staff:**

Tammy Childers, Executive Director  
Robert Kehres, Assistant Director  
Lisa Harvey, WIA Coordinator  
Trina Hale, Accounting Technician  
Joe McCarthy, Youth Coordinator  
Debbie Simpkins, Fiscal Monitor  
D'Andra Knight, Program Assistant

### **Communicate with Us!**

1341 South Glenburnie Road  
New Bern, NC 28562  
Telephone: (252) 636-6901 or (877) 916-6901  
Fax: (252) 638-3569

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

#### **Youth Service Provider Meeting**

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern  
January 16, 2008, 10:00 am

#### **Youth Council Meeting**

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern  
February 5, 2008, 6:00 pm

#### **Adult/Dislocated Worker Service Provider Meeting**

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern  
February 14, 2008, 10:00 am

#### **JobLink Committee Meeting**

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern  
February 14, 2008, 6:00 pm

#### **WIA Oversight Committee Meeting**

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern  
February 21, 2008, 6:00 pm

#### **Executive Committee Meeting**

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern  
February 28, 2008, 6:00 pm

#### **Board Meeting**

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern  
March 6, 2008, 6:00 pm



The Craven County JobLink Career Center  
will host the **Twin Rivers Career Fair 2008**  
at the

New Bern Riverfront Convention Center  
on Thursday, February 28, 2008.

The Career Fair starts at  
Noon and ends at 4:00 p.m.

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