



March, 2009 Inside this Issue:

President Obama Signs Economic Stimulus Package

\$2.7 Million Allocated for Eastern Carolina Workforce Training Programs

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The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009, is intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery, and to assist those most impacted by the recession. With the additional workforce funding provided in the Recovery Act, and the increased employment and training services such funding will support, the workforce system will play a vital role in America's economic recovery by assisting workers who are facing unprecedented challenges to retool their skills and re-establish themselves in viable career paths. Drawing on the workforce system's expertise in developing our nation's workers, One-Stop Career Centers across the country will target services to meet the changing needs of workers and employers, helping the dislocated engineer to refine her resume, the construction worker to develop competencies in green construction technologies, and the nurse's aide to enroll in a registered apprenticeship program that will put her on the pathway to higher skilled and higher paying jobs that will lift her family from poverty to the middle class.

If the workforce system is to meet both the letter and the spirit of the law and fulfill its critical role in U.S. economic recovery, we must implement the Recovery Act expeditiously and effectively, with full transparency and accountability of our expenditure of funds. But the Recovery Act provides more than an injection of workforce development resources into communities in need across the

country. The significant investment of stimulus funds presents an extraordinary and unique opportunity for the workforce system to accelerate its transformational efforts and demonstrate its ability to innovate and implement effective One-Stop service delivery strategies. As states and local areas plan how their One-Stop systems will make immediate use of the Recovery Act funds, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) strongly encourages them to take an expansive view of how the funds can be integrated into transformational efforts to improve the effectiveness of the public workforce system. Education and training at every level are closely aligned with jobs and industries important to local and regional economies. Every level of education and training affords students, apprentices, and trainees the ability to advance in school or at work, with assessments and certifications articulated to the requirements of the next level of education and employment.

To achieve this vision of a strong and vital workforce system, system stakeholders at every level must continue to develop and refine innovative service delivery strategies in the context of regional economies. Although we confront the challenges of a global economy on a national level, economic prosperity for individuals and families will be determined in large part in regional economies – both metropolitan and rural. Sector strategies that enable low-income, displaced and under-skilled adults and disconnected youth to acquire the knowledge

and skills for success at work in key industries are an important service delivery innovation. Sector strategies for renewable energy, broadband and telecommunications, health care, advanced manufacturing, and other high-demand industry sectors identified by local areas should become an integral part of comprehensive approaches to workforce development and regional growth."

In utilizing the funding in the Recovery Act, all levels of the workforce system must be guided by four principles:

- Transparency and accountability in the use of Recovery Act funding;
- Timely spending of funds and implementation of activities;
- Increasing workforce system capacity and service levels; and
- Using data and workforce information to guide strategic planning and service delivery.

The Recovery Act contains many provisions stressing transparency in the use of the funding provided by the Act, including the creation of a new website named www.recovery.gov. This emphasis on transparency, along with national interest in the impact of the Recovery Act on our nation's economy, will translate into increased attention on the workforce system's implementation of the Recovery Act. For additional information, please reference the USDOL's [Training and Employment Guidance Letter \(TEGL\) 14-08](#) that is available at www.doleta.gov.

Source: doleta.gov



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Wayne County

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Tara Myers, *Vocational Rehabilitation, Manager*

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



Director's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Spring! A lot has happened since our January newsletter. For starters, the passing of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ["the Recovery Act"]. While it is yet to be seen how the Recovery Act will get our Country moving again economically, all of us will directly benefit in some way during this year. For starters, less tax is being taken out of our paychecks! And for unemployed workers, they are now receiving an extra \$25 a week in much needed unemployment benefits.

Through the Workforce Investment Act, funds are now available to implement large summer youth employment programs across the Country; as well as, additional funds to help unemployed and underemployed workers go back to school to upgrade their skills or retrain for many of the high demand careers that need qualified workers. In our region, we expect to see growth in the high skill, higher wage areas such as healthcare, education, advanced manufacturing, skilled trades, aerospace, and the emerging "green jobs". For many, now is the opportunity to be training for these new careers.

With unemployment rates climbing to ten percent, our JobLink partners have been busy planning for, and hosting local Career Fairs. In March, Carteret, Lenoir, and Craven JobLink partners held Career Fairs and experienced record numbers of attendance. It was an opportunity to inform job seekers of the various training offerings, as well as, share job leads for businesses that are hiring. We also had the opportunity to host a free tax service training event for Congressman Butterfield. This service allows for free online tax filing, another way to help customers save some of their hard earned money.

Closing out March on a high note was Onslow County's Third Annual Skilled Trades Day- Championships at Work competition. Young people from Jones and Onslow County Schools were able to show off their skills and compete for great prizes. One employer was so impressed that he offered a student a summer job on the spot! In addition to numerous businesses, the event was sponsored by Onslow County Schools, Coastal Carolina Community College, Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, and the Jacksonville/Onslow Chamber of Commerce.

April promises to be a busy month as we move forward with the implementation of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. We all have an tremendous opportunity to serve more customers in our local JobLink Centers and training programs. Let's not let this opportunity pass us by. The customers who visit our local JobLink Centers are counting on us.

May God Bless You!

Tammy Childers

Mona Padrick Named 2008 Woman of the Year

Congratulations to ECWDB Board Chair Mona Padrick!



Mona Padrick, President,
Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber
of Commerce

In January, the Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce announced recipients of the 2008 Jacksonville-Onslow Woman of the Year award at its 65th annual membership celebration. The Woman of the Year Award, sponsored by Marine Chevrolet, went to the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board Chair Mona Padrick, president of the Chamber. This was the first time in the chamber's history where the president received this special recognition.

Prior to joining the chamber, Mona worked for Onslow County Schools. A retired educator, Padrick has worked for the Chamber for the past twelve years and has served as its president for eight. Mona joined the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board of Directors in 2005, and became the Board's first female Chair in 2008. Padrick credits her success to a variety of things including, Project CARE, workforce development, fiscal responsibility and minority business services. She also credits this achievement to her staff, and the county. "I am overwhelmed and deeply honored for receiving this special recognition." said Padrick.

Source:jdnews.com

ECWDB Receives Funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Hundreds of local citizens expected to benefit from training programs

In March, the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board was notified by Department of Commerce, Division of Workforce Development that they will receive approximately \$2,775,566 funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as authorized by the federal Workforce Investment Act. Over a third of those funds are designated for a Summer Youth Employment Program. In response, the Board released Request for Proposals for the Summer Youth Employment Program, which are due on April 20. The Board plans to approve Summer Youth Employment Program contracts at their May 7 meeting. It is anticipated that approximately 250 youth will participate in the regional summer youth program.

Funds are also available for expanded Adult and Dislocated Worker employment and training program services through local JobLink Centers across the nine-county local area. It is expected that at least 70% of these funds will be used for participant tuition, books, supplies, supportive services, work experience, on-the-job training, short-term training, as well as additional training opportunities in high growth, high skill areas such as healthcare, advanced manufacturing, skilled trades, and training in preparation for the emerging green economy jobs. Through these additional funds, the Board expects to see a significant increase in new program enrollments.

Source: Tammy Childers

Craven County JobLink Hosts Press Conference with Guest Speaker Congressman G.K. Butterfield to Promote Free Tax Help

NC Residents Eligible for Free Online Tax Preparation, Electronic Filing Services

On March 14, the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board and the Craven County JobLink hosted a press conference with guest speaker Congressman G.K. Butterfield at Craven County JobLink Career Center where they announced the availability of a public-private partnership aimed at helping lower and moderate income North Carolina taxpayers – including those eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, active-duty military, students, and seniors – to electronically prepare and e-file their federal and state tax returns for **FREE**.

The program, called Free File, is a partnership between the IRS (www.irs.gov), 21 state tax agencies (including NC – www.dorncc.com), and the nation's electronic tax software manufacturers, including Intuit, the maker of TurboTax Freedom Edition (www.taxfreedom.com). "Like nearly every other state in the nation, North Carolina is facing a budget deficit this year, and many North Carolina residents are feeling the effects. The idea that government and industry got together years ago to create this Free File program is pretty remarkable, and I want to make sure that every eligible taxpayer uses Free File," said Congressman Butterfield. "The IRS and the state don't pay a dime for this program and neither do North Carolina

taxpayers. This is one of those rare examples of good news during tax season." Congressman Butterfield continued, "Hundreds of thousands of North Carolina residents are entitled to receive the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a tax program specifically designed to help hard working Americans. But the IRS tells us that as many as 20 percent of those eligible never file for it. Free File helps you claim every credit and deduction, including EITC."

David Macklin, from the Computer & Communications Industry Association, was also on hand. "CCIA is thrilled to be sponsoring this event to promote the IRS and North Carolina Free File programs. Congressman Butterfield and CCIA are both strong advocates for fostering innovative public-private partnerships that put technology's tools into everyone's hands."

Also joining Macklin at the event was Anthony Bedell, with the Intuit Financial Freedom Foundation. "We are proud to donate TurboTax Freedom Edition to working families, lower-income filers, students and the men and women in uniform so bravely serving our country," said Bedell. "Having donated more than 18 million returns to qualified taxpayers since 1998, our donation of TurboTax is our largest philanthropic initiative. We are delighted to be with Congressman Butterfield to help spread the word so

that qualified taxpayers can get their income taxes electronically prepared and e-filed safely, quickly and for free." Following the press conference, community-based organization representatives participated in an hour-long tax training workshop to learn how easy it is to use Intuit's TurboTax Freedom Edition, share ideas and gain access to outreach materials to inform eligible taxpayers in the community.

Source: David Macklin

North Carolina High Schools Reported that 1,116 Fewer Students Dropped Out of School During the 2007-08 Academic Year.

Last month the 2007-08 dropout report was released, as well as at College Board reported on how well students are doing with Advanced Placement courses. For North Carolina, this was good news. North Carolina high schools reported that 4.97 percent of students dropped out of school during the 2007-08 academic year, according to the 2007-08 Dropout Report. This means that 1,116 fewer students across North Carolina decided to drop out in 2007-08 than in the previous year.

Overall, 22,434 students out of approximately 450,000 North Carolina

high school students dropped out of school in 2007-08. This marks the first decrease in the state's rate since 2004-05. In the "5th Annual AP Report to the Nation," North Carolina is identified as one of 17 states in which the percentage of students in the class of 2008 that scored a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam exceeds the national average. A total of 23,783 (28.4%) students from the North Carolina's public high school class of 2008 took at least one AP exam during high school, creating an increase of 6,913 students (up 4.2%) from 2003. A total of 14,519 stu-

dents (17.3%) from the class of 2008 earned a score of 3 or higher on at least one AP exam. This number represents an increase of 4,195 students (up 2.5%) from 2003 and exceeds the national average of 15.2%. "We would not have these successes without your support and assistance. Thank you for everything you do on behalf of public schools," said June Atkinson, DPI Superintendent.

Source: Lynda Fuller, Feb. 11, 2009 Partners' Message



Congressman G.K. Butterfield



Area non-profits receive training

Craven County Schools Highlights Growing Career Technical Education Programs

Career-Technical Education (CTE) has evolved from students building birdhouses or crocheting to reinforcing learning from other disciplines to prepare all students to continue their education beyond high school and to assist them in preparing for new and emerging career fields. The federal Carl D. Perkins Act which funds CTE provides increased focus on the academic achievement of career-technical students, strengthens the connections between secondary and postsecondary education, and makes accountability imperative.

According to the US Chamber of Commerce, CTE can help solve the US talent shortage and must be part of education reform. Over 90% of the fastest growing jobs and over 60% of all new jobs will require some postsecondary education or training, but not necessarily a bachelor's degree.

The Department of Public Instruction findings indicate the graduation rate in NC last year was 70.3%. The rate of students who completed a concentration of four or more CTE courses in one program area was 90.4%. Students say that having a focus for the future and developing skills in one area help them set career goals. They see the purpose of school and the connection of academics in skill development.

Every high school student needs to develop a career plan with realistic goals and within their educational budget. High school students in Craven County have many opportunities to think about career choices, develop workplace skills, experience on-the-job training, and develop civic responsibility through CTE courses. All students can benefit, whether career bound or college bound.

Students take college career-technical courses while in high school and earn college credit. take advantage of work-based learning through CTE internships and learn about career options through job shadowing. BSH Home Appliances partners with Craven County Schools, Craven Community College and the NC Dept of Labor to offer apprenticeship opportunities to selected high school students. These fortunate students can earn an Associates Degree in Manufactur-

ing Technology and apprentice as an Electro-Mechanic Technician while working part-time at BSH for two years. Other valuable community partners support CTE through hiring interns, serving on advisory councils, and assisting in student activities. Career Development Coordinators at each high school are available to assist students with work-based learning opportunities and career guidance.

CTE students get involved in community projects such as a car wash to benefit the Women's Shelter, sending letters to the troops, hosting an annual Senior Citizens breakfast, and making lap quilts for a nursing home. They, raise scholarship funds and support each other in skills competition.

Chef Dawn Freeman and food and culinary class students are planning an "Iron Chef" event on April 25. Students work with professional chefs and then compete against each other. A group of CTE students at Havelock High in Trade and Industrial classes are converting a gas-powered truck to an electric vehicle as part of the SMARTT Challenge sponsored by the Electric Vehicle coalition. Once the vehicle conversion is completed, they will participate in the annual high school competition and educate the public about electric vehicle science and green energy.

Through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), eligible students are offered summer employment opportunities, job readiness counseling and skill development. All three high schools have a WIA case manager on site to work one-on-one with these students. The Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board works closely with case managers and students. It recognizes the value of the experience these students gain in developing a local workforce.

Students in CTE courses apply academics and get a head start on developing job skills. Agriculture students are growing canola and learning about biodiesel production and pioneer companies like Red Birch Energy. Advances in technology and the changing job market require CTE to adapt course offerings to teach students the knowledge leading to high skill, high demand careers at every entry level. Darlene Moss, became the new

CTE Director with Craven County Schools last July. She is working with teachers and principals to evaluate programs and determine program needs to align courses with new career opportunities. CTE programs demand constant, costly upgrading of equipment and altering programs to keep up with new technology and changing workforce needs, especially local industry clusters and the new green jobs.

Middle school students may explore CTE through instruction in keyboarding and business computer technology. High school CTE students share their career and technical experiences with middle schoolers each spring during registration.

Students enrolled in any CTE course may choose to participate in Career-Technical Students Organizations related to the course. Students benefit from developing leadership and communications skills, problem-solving, and citizenship skills such as community service in every CTSO. Some of the names have changed but the quality of the experience is the same. For example, Future Homemakers of America (FHA) are now Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and Home Ec is now called Family and Consumer Sciences. CTSO students compete at the regional, state and national levels in a wide variety of competitions and scholarship events.

President Barack Obama has said, "we will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together. We'll restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology's wonders to raise health care's quality and lower its cost. We will harness the sun, and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories. And we will transform our schools...to meet the demands of a new age. All this we can do. All this we can do." Career-technical education helps build America's workforce to meet the needs of our future.

For more information about career-technical education, or to offer your support, contact Craven County Schools at 252-514-6322 or 6370.

Source: Darlene Moss, Craven County Schools

Onslow County Holds Third Annual Trades Day-Champions at Work

On March 28, 105 high school students from Jones Senior High School and Onslow County Schools competed for cash prizes and bragging rights at the third annual Trades Day - Champions at Work competition on the campus of Coastal Carolina Community College.

"This is economic development right here," said Mona Padrick, Chair of the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, and President of the Jacksonville/Onslow Chamber of Commerce. "Trades Day came about after a request several years ago by the local construction industry, which was having a hard time finding skilled workers. A domino effect took hold and as high school trade classes began to shrink, college courses followed suit. Soon there were not enough skilled workers in the local job market," Padrick said. "With the growth we are experiencing and expecting, we are going to need

skilled workers," she said. "Trades Day is a way to focus on that and show potential employers what these new workers can do." The jobs spotlighted at Trades Day are solid, money-earning jobs. "These are good, high-paying jobs people can stay here and support their families with," she said.

Retired construction contractor Harold Mullen sat and watched the framing contest. "It is good to see youngsters learning a trade," he said. "Everyone is always talking about rebuilding our infrastructure, well here's the young men and ladies who are going to do it."

Representatives from local businesses, various trades-related vendors, Jacksonville/Onslow Chamber of Commerce, Onslow County Schools, Coastal Carolina Community College, along with the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board sponsored the event which was estimated at over

\$15,000 through in-kind contributions.

Students representing Onslow and Jones County schools competed in the areas of construction, electrical trades, automotive technology, small engine repair, drafting, masonry and welding. The event also included a nail-driving contest.

The competition was aimed at bringing excitement back to learning trades and was a great success by all measures. These young people represent the new generation of skilled trade workers and will be vital to the growth of our region," commented Mona Padrick. The event ended with a luncheon provided by W.T. Humphrey Heating and Cooling, followed by awards and prizes presented by Senator Harry Brown.

Source: Jdnews.com



Carpentry Competition



Teamwork in Action



Welding Competition



Welding Competition



Drafting Competition



Drafting Competition



Automotive Competition



Nail Driving



Masonry Competition



Masonry Competition



Time to Announce the Winners



Senator Harry Brown Hands Out Awards

Employer Interest in WorkKeys and Career Readiness Certification On The Rise In Wayne County

As the demand for more highly skilled workers increases, employers are looking for ways to reduce turnover by choosing the right person for the job the first time. WorkKeys and the NC Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) is a great tool that employers can use to get more information about the quality of their applicants. CRC gives qualitative data about the problem solving and critical thinking skills a person brings to the job. And CRC helps applicants prove the skills they have and gain a competitive edge over other applicants.

In Wayne County, employer interest in WorkKeys and Career Readiness Certification is on the rise. Employers such as Franklin Baking Company are among the Wayne County companies to see the benefits of job profiling in the selection and hiring of new applicants. Franklin Baking has participated in job profiling and plans to commission two additional profiles in the near future. Charles Brogden, Director of Human Resources at Franklin Baking, says, "We believe that WorkKeys and

Career Readiness Certification will help Franklin Baking Company make better hiring and promoting decisions, while helping our employees to improve their skills and their opportunities for advancement."

Dave Parson with Uchiyama America, Inc. is one of the county's strongest proponents of WorkKeys and CRC. "Uchiyama America, Inc. is excited to be part of the WORKS initiative in Wayne County. Through our partnership with WORKS and Wayne Community College, we are incorporating WorkKeys job profiling and Career Readiness Certification as part of our hiring, promotion and training practices. WorkKeys and CRC are valuable tools to ensure that we match employees with a CRC to the right position within our Company. Hiring and promoting the right person will strengthen our position in the marketplace as well as ensure the success of our employees in their career development."

Chris Martin, HR Manager for Mt. Olive Pickle agrees. "Career Readiness Certificates help identify skill levels of

applicants. Teamed with the WorkKeys job profiles which our company is having performed on certain jobs, CRC's are a useful tool to help us choose applicants who have a high potential for success in specific jobs. Use of CRC's will be important in helping us build the skilled workforce we need to be successful today and in the future," explains Ms. Martin.

The CRC tells employers that a person can apply what they have learned in school, on the job, and in life. In many ways, CRC gives employers more information about a person's trainability than knowing if the applicant has a diploma or degree. Some employers such as Pate Dawson Company (PDC) are choosing to request the CRC without a job profile by including a line in the company's job listing indicating that preference is given to applicants who have a CRC.

Source: Diane Ivey, WCC

Wayne County Adds Second Job Profiler

On October 24th Michael Cordell completed the ACT Profiler training course in Chattanooga, Tennessee to become Wayne Community College's newest Authorized Job Profiler. "WorkKeys is helping businesses and communities across the country find and develop their workforce.

Profiling is a crucial part of the WorkKeys system," said Cordell. Cordell has already put his training into practice by assisting profiler Diane Ivey with a job profile in December. "Participating in the Material Handler profile for AAR Corp. in Goldsboro has allowed me to experience the process and to see its benefits," Cordell said.

In the Job Profiling process, an ACT-trained facilitator works collaboratively with groups of employees to complete each job analysis. Job incumbents serve as the subject matter experts who define the tasks and skills needed to perform a specific job successfully.



Mike Cordell, WIA Director, WCC

Job profiling consists of a task analysis to select the tasks most critical to a job and skill analysis to identify the skills and skill levels required to enter the job and perform effectively. By matching the job profile information with individual scores on the WorkKeys assessments, employers can make reliable decisions about hiring, training, and program development needs.

Cordell has been at Wayne Community College as a WIA Career Counselor since 2000 and now serves as Program Director. He became certi-

fied as a job profiler as a part of the Wayne Occupational Readiness Keys for Success (WORKS) initiative. WORKS is an innovative approach for economic and workforce development in Wayne County.

Partners in the WORKS initiative are Wayne Community College, Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, Wayne County, Wayne County Public Schools, Wayne County JobLink Center/Employment Security Commission, and Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc. The partners are endorsers of WorkKeys and the NC Career Readiness Certificate program. Diane Ivey is Workforce Development Coordinator for WORKS.

Source: Mike Cordell, WCC

Local Career Fairs Held in March

Carteret Career Fair Draws a Crowd

Approximately 50 businesses and organizations had exhibits at the career fair and represented a variety of job opportunities, including the medical profession, manufacturing, the hotel and hospitality industry, food service, finance and insurance.

Chick-Fil-A, which opened a location Thursday in Morehead City, joined the event that morning, excited to be a part of the community. "We're very happy to be here. It has been an amazing welcoming from the community," said Laura Conneely, who owns the Morehead restaurant with her husband, Patrick. The opening of the restaurant brought about 60 jobs to the area and interest in them has been high. "Since we started taking them, we've had about 1,000 applications," Conneely said.

Organizers of this year's career fair found many people already lined up to enter as the doors opened. "With the economy the way it is, we expect a record amount of people to come out," said Dan

Williams, manager of the local Employment Security Commission office, one of the sponsors of the career fair.

The event typically draws about 400 people and last year it saw its highest number of business participants, with 62 exhibitors. With fewer jobs to offer this year, the number of businesses participating was down somewhat, but those who came had positions to offer and were looking for people to put in them. Helping make that match is what the event is all about, Williams said.

Onslow Memorial Hospital was also a part of the event. "We want to be here and be sure people are familiar with our opportunities," said Del Hunt, assistant director for Human Resources. "... we're always recruiting and looking for the right kind of employees to provide the best quality care for our patients." Hunt was on hand to talk to people about all positions available at the hospital, but registered nurses are the big need at Onslow

and across the country, she said.

At the table for the Sheraton Atlantic Beach, Judy DeLong greeted everyone with a smile and was quick to talk with anyone interested in the variety of positions the hotel has available as it gears up for the spring and summer season. It wasn't so long ago that she was on the job hunt herself. DeLong was a self-employed event planner working in Raleigh, but Carteret County was where she wanted to be. After several months of looking for work, she found her way via a job fair as banquet manager at the Sheraton. On Thursday, she did her part to help others do the same. "I want to put them at ease because it is very stressful," she said.

Source: jdnews.com

Employment Solutions to Meet Your Needs—It's All in One Place!

North Carolina



Career Planning, Training
& Placement Services

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- ◆ Resource for Job-Ready Candidates
- ◆ Employee Recruitment & Retention Assistance
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- ◆ Customized Training for Employees
- ◆ Workplace Literacy

Call your local JobLink Career Center today!

Carteret County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (252) 726-7151

Craven County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (252) 514-4828

Craven County JobLink Information Site

Phone: (252) 444-2384

Duplin County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (910) 296-1478

Greene County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (252) 747-5689

Jones County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (252) 448-5021

Lenoir County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (252) 527-7320

Onslow County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (910) 347-2121

Onslow County JobLink Information Site

Phone: (910) 938-6309

Pamlico County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (252) 249-9934

Wayne County JobLink Career Center

Phone: (919) 731-7950

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

Lenoir Community College Hosts 25th Annual Job Fair

Job seekers had an opportunity today to visit with prospective employers at the 25th annual career fair at Lenoir Community College. Hundreds of job seekers poured into Lenoir Community College's career fair held March 18, with hopes of finding employment with local and regional businesses. With unemployment rates reaching nearly 10 percent for Lenoir County, displaced workers pursued employers' information booths.



ees the school district can currently hire. However, she said the career fair was a good tool for the district to reach out to future employees.

"There is a need for new jobs," Lenoir County Economic Development Director Mark Pope said. Some employers at the career fair - including Lenoir County Schools - had information booths at LCC but didn't have any current job openings available. Lenoir County Schools organization development specialist Kim Hazelgrove said several job candidates asked if there were custodial, bus driver or teaching jobs open in the school district. Hazelgrove said budget cuts have limited the number of employ-

Lenoir County and Kinston has seen some recent gains in job announcements with Sanderson Farms and Spirit Aero-Systems. During the same period, several companies have closed or downsized their operations. The Lenoir County Sheriff's Office, Kinston Public Works, the Greenville Police Department and the Ruby Tuesday restaurant chain were among the employers at the career fair. Each agency said they were looking for new employees this month.

The Greenville Police Department is seeking four new officers to hire while the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office has open positions for both detention officers and sheriff deputies.

Nearly 800 job seekers had attended the fair before 10 a.m., according to LCC officials. There were nearly 100 employers set up inside the college's gym for the 25th annual career fair held at LCC.

LCC spokeswoman Frances Gaskins said both students and the public attended the fair, which surpassed last year's attendance figures.

Source: Kinston.com

Craven Career Fair Draws More Than 500 Job Seekers

A record number of job seekers and a better than expected number of employers attended the Twin Rivers Career Fair on Wednesday, March 18, 2009. The four-hour Career Fair held at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center drew "500-plus job seekers and 46 employers and agencies, an excellent turnout," said Gina Smith, an organizer with North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation, one of the event sponsors. "Even with the unemployment rate up, it's important to give job seekers a sense of hope," she said. "It's going to turn around. It's an opportunity for career growth." The fair is to help people learn about opportunities available in the area, to apply for in the future. The community really pulled together. It was an overwhelming response."

Most of those attending "came with a good positive attitude looking for work," said Ed Hughes, veteran employee representative for the local Employment Security Commission. The fair was sponsored by the Craven County Job-Link partners. Even those out of work seemed to have a good positive attitude"

he said. "I saw a good number dressed appropriately for interviews and with a resume."

Hughes and Mary Brown, manager of the local Employment Security Commission, said they had actually gotten job orders to list from three businesses for five jobs while at the fair and in the last 10 business days had about 30 new job orders. "I encourage those individuals looking for work to check the Web site every day," Hughes said. "A job order posted for a good position is not going to stay open long." People stopped to pick up the items. Some stopped to talk with companies about jobs or fill out application forms. Jackie Moore, the area operations manager for Gold's Gym, said career fairs provide the best opportunity to find employees. Moore works with the Gold's locations in New Bern, Morehead City and Kinston.

Just to be here on site, we know we can open doors for people looking for employment, Moore said. But it also provides great value for employers. It helps to put a face with a name and talk

with the person when they are handing in an application. In the gym business, personality means everything.

Representatives from the N.C. Department of Corrections looked to fill positions for correctional officers and food-service jobs. Food Lion, BSH and Craven Community College set up tables with information about their organizations.

Arc Services accepted applications from people who want to work with the disabled, said recruiter Stacy Howard. Arc Services offers disability services in Carteret, Craven, Jones, Pamlico, Pitt and Onslow counties. We're actually growing like wildfire recently, Howard said. So we're looking to fill some spots in New Bern. We serve more than 30 counties, and we're based in Stanly County. At the end of the day, both employers and prospective employees walked away with a sense that a brighter future lies ahead.

Source: nbsunjournal.com

Craven JobLink Partners Hold Services Fair for Hatteras Yachts Employees

On February 6, about 200 people learned about college job training, retirement planning and unemployment programs during a service fair for Hatteras Yachts employees who were laid off last month. Several people from Moen, a faucet manufacturer, and Chatsworth Products, a computer and communications network management manufacturer, also attended the information session held at the Bosch-Siemens Advanced Manufacturing Center Craven Community College.

Hatteras laid off 330 employees, half of the workforce at its New Bern plant, Jan. 13 and 14. The JobLink partners, U.S. Army, Cherry Point and other organizations set up information booths about programs and services

available for dislocated workers to help people like Tony Reels. Reels worked 31 years at Hatteras Yachts and said he was interested in a federal job at Cherry Point. He was one of many who asked for prayer Friday and said he wants a job that will keep his mind and body moving. "Something I can work with my hands," he said. "I'm a good worker. I have something to offer them, so I hope they have something to offer me."

Mary Brown, manager of the New Bern Employment Security Commission, said a period of unemployment is tough but an opportunity to learn something new. She provided information about ESC services and Workforce Investment Act programs. "It's

time to think of what they want to do," Brown said. "Even though it's a real negative now, it can be a real positive. We're letting them know we're here." The Craven JobLink partners also held a services fair in August, when 325 people were laid off from the New Bern Hatteras plant and another boat plant in Edenton. Four groups of about 50 people each went through the Friday information sessions.

Mark Best, the college's human resources development director, said those workers have a chance to take free employment-readiness classes in March and April. The classes will teach computer skills, resume preparation and ways to search the Internet for jobs.

Source: www.newbernsj.com

LCC WIA Participants Use Leadership Skills to Mobilize Community

Members of the Lenoir Community College's WIA/YELL (Youth Excelling in Lifelong Learning) Club recently presented Kinston's InterChurch Out Reach (ICOR) a variety of canned goods and non-perishable items. ICOR is a united effort of Kinston area churches, civic organizations and individuals. It provides assistance to neighbors with medicine, fuel, food, housing or utilities in emergency crisis.

All food is donated to ICOR. The outreach program is staffed by volunteers from various churches and civic organizations. ICOR provides referrals to

mobile food banks. The community service project is part of leadership development that is encouraged by each member of the WIA/YELL program at LCC, said LCC WIA Youth Career Consultant Tezra P. Egleton. "Volunteering teaches our students the value of community involvement," she said.

"The WIA/YELL Youth program is a Workforce Investment Act Program for qualified males and females that are 16 to 21 years of age that provides assistance with obtaining your AHS Diploma, GED, Occupational Skills Training, Career Readiness Certificate,

or two-year degree. That assistance may be in the form of paid tuition, books, supplies, fees and supportive services such as child care services for parents and transportation, job referrals and placements, assistance with career, education and personal development, tutoring and counseling." Egleton said participants stay in the program until they accomplish their goals that are set. "We will also follow each student for a year after they have completed the program." For more information about the WIA/YELL program at LCC, please call 252-527-6223, ext. 718 or 126.

Source: LCC



Those who participated in the ICOR Project are pictured, front row, left to right, Octavia Noble, Casey Tyndall, Jessica Valdez, and Inez Dale, Director of ICOR; second row, Lindeshia Barrow, Janeira Wiggins, Alaina Reed, Busisiwe Khumalo, Najah Jackson, Amanda D. Thompson and Victoria Tetterton; and third row, Tezra P. Egleton, LCC's WIA Youth Career Consultant.

Below is a Review of the Fastest Growing Occupations and 2007 Median Hourly Earnings for the Eastern Carolina Local Area, based on project Growth in Jobs from 2008-2018, that require an Associate's Degree, or less:

Description	2008 Jobs	2018 Jobs	Growth	2007 Median Hourly Earnings
Home health aides	5,940	8,385	2,445	\$8.91
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	7,025	9,081	2,056	\$7.16
Retail salespersons	7,399	8,928	1,529	\$9.11
Team assemblers	3,261	4,529	1,268	\$10.98
Waiters and waitresses	4,384	5,342	958	\$6.95
Registered nurses	3,418	4,311	893	\$25.78
Personal and home care aides	1,638	2,509	871	\$9.41
Customer service representatives	2,586	3,356	770	\$11.24
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	3,055	3,763	708	\$8.47
Office clerks, general	3,598	4,291	693	\$9.98
Cashiers, except gaming	6,540	7,187	647	\$7.45
Teacher assistants	3,331	3,894	563	\$12.14
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	2,883	3,389	506	\$13.08
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	2,110	2,591	481	\$14.46
Receptionists and information clerks	1,832	2,300	468	\$10.21
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	2,899	3,357	458	\$14.35
Food preparation workers	1,962	2,418	456	\$7.56
Correctional officers and jailers	1,498	1,942	444	\$17.03
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	3,423	3,823	400	\$9.35
Maintenance and repair workers, general	2,305	2,701	396	\$14.03
First-line supervisors/managers of food preparation and serving workers	1,739	2,121	382	\$11.98
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	1,889	2,267	378	\$7.29
Social and human service assistants	929	1,305	376	\$11.71
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	1,689	2,053	364	\$15.20
Construction laborers	1,814	2,160	346	\$9.44
Cooks, restaurant	1,657	1,995	338	\$8.24
Medical assistants	624	949	325	\$11.39
Landscaping and groundskeeping workers	1,254	1,566	312	\$9.66
Slaughterers and meat packers	1,697	1,992	295	\$10.18
Carpenters	1,693	1,986	293	\$13.74
Truck drivers, light or delivery services	1,550	1,839	289	\$11.06
Bartenders	797	1,055	258	\$7.45
Security guards	974	1,231	257	\$9.78
First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers	1,547	1,786	239	\$20.26
Child care workers	816	1,046	230	\$7.54
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	1,072	1,298	226	\$22.98
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products	1,581	1,806	225	\$17.65
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	1,839	2,059	220	\$19.07
Preschool teachers, except special education	1,110	1,316	206	\$8.71
Counter and rental clerks	929	1,128	199	\$8.49
Helpers--Production workers	1,258	1,456	198	\$9.48
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	981	1,155	174	\$18.24
Dental assistants	436	607	171	\$16.01
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	1,226	1,392	166	\$10.03
Dishwashers	810	971	161	\$7.05
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics	443	602	159	\$12.00
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	3,632	3,790	158	\$11.99
First-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers	1,141	1,297	156	\$19.38
Hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop	706	850	144	\$7.01
Dental hygienists	344	486	142	\$28.26

Source: EMSI Covered Employment - Fall 2008

"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."



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
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

WIA Oversight Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
 April 14, 2009, 6:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
 April 30, 2009, 6:00 pm

Eastern Carolina WDB Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
 May 7, 2009, 6:00 pm

Youth Council Meeting

at the ECWDB offices in New Bern
 June 3, 2009, 6:00 pm



Congratulations

Dan Williams

Manager of the Carteret JobLink/
 Employment Security Commission
 On your recent retirement after 33
 years of public service.

We wish you all the best!

3rd Annual

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