

February, 2021



Northeastern Workforce Development Board

ALBEMARLE COMMISSION
REGION R COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

News from the Northeast

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

To say that 2020 was a challenging year might be a bit of an understatement. In 2020 we faced situations unlike any I have seen in my lifetime. However, I have the privilege of working with an outstanding group of professionals who are able to adapt and overcome even the most challenging situations. Our administrative staff at the Northeastern Workforce Development Board and our front-line staff at our NCWorks Career Centers continue to work together as a team to provide much needed services throughout the 10-county region we serve.

To recognize and celebrate the hard work of our staff, I wanted to share with you some of our key accomplishments from 2020. On the following pages you will find an infographic highlighting some of those key accomplishments. While this certainly isn't an exhaustive list, I do believe the accomplishments outlined show the impact that our organization has on the communities we serve.

When I look at these achievements from 2020, I see more than just numbers and dollars, I see many lives that have been transformed with the help of our staff. That's what our staff do every day – they help people change their lives. I have said it many times before, and I will continue to say that I couldn't be prouder to be part of such an outstanding team.

Best Wishes,

Dave Whitmer, Director
Northeastern Workforce Development Board



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Partnerships within the Region
- Events
- Workshops
- Staff Appreciation
- Weekly Blast
- Veterans

NCWorks Virtual Workshops

The NCWorks Career Center staff in Elizabeth City hosts weekly virtual workshops for job seekers to sharpen their skills. Topics include resume writing, interviewing, networking, work ready skills, dressing for success, and various other topics that are relevant to job seekers in today's job market. Text "NCWorks" to 56512 to view and register for the virtual workshops offered throughout the NWDB region!

NCWorks Virtual Conference

Assistant Director Emily Nicholson presented "Influencing the Influencers" at the NCWorks Virtual Conference. Emily's presentation focused on our regional partnerships with K-12 teachers and how our best practices can be utilized in other areas of our state. The presentation featured the CTE teacher "Boot Camps" held the last 2 summers by grant partnerships with College of The Albemarle.

AVIATION PATHWAY

Career Pathways are an integrated collection of both regional and local programs and services that connects youth and adults to the workforce through education and training for highly skilled, sustainable careers in high demand industries. Our region is the first in NC to have a Career Pathway certified by the state. Currently, Northeastern NC has four Career Pathways: Health Care, Advanced Manufacturing, Agriscience and BioTechnology, and Business Support Services. As a region we continue to lead the way in this work, identifying and pursuing Aviation as our next career pathway.

The initial groundwork for the Aviation Pathway began in the fall of

2020, with the goal of creating a talent pipeline for aviation related employers within commuting distance of the Northeastern Workforce Development Board's (NWDB) 10-county region. An Aviation Roundtable discussion was held in December that included Elizabeth City State University and College of The Albemarle. Topics included: academic offerings, relationships with K-12 and the business community, and additional ways to work together to create an aviation talent pipeline. As this work continues, the NWDB will keep you posted on the progress of creating an aviation pathway.



*"Believe you can and you're halfway there."
Theodore Roosevelt*

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

The NCWorks Career Center in Elizabeth City held their first virtual Business Round Table on December 9th, 2020. Eight businesses attended from a variety of industries across the Northeastern region. Business participants had the opportunity to learn about all of the services offered to them through the NCWorks Career Centers and the Northeastern Workforce Development Board. Presentations included: NCWorks Career Center Manager, Matthew Fowler, giving an overview of the NCWorks Career Center; Business Engagement Coordinator, Amber Morse and Veteran Representative, Marcus Cutrell reviewed business services, such as On-the-

Job Training, grant prospects, hiring veterans and labor market information relevant to the industries in attendance; and Janaye Clark, NCWorks NextGen Coordinator, presented opportunities available to businesses through the NextGen program such as work experiences and job shadowing. The session concluded with Christian Lockamy, former Director of Economic Development Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Economic Development Commission, who gave a presentation on growth in the Elizabeth City Pasquotank region. The last hour of the event included time for discussion between attendees regarding their most pressing issues, retention techniques and philosophies, and success stories.



2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Northeastern Workforce
Development Board

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2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Proudly serving Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell & Washington Counties

7,233 **JOB-SEEKERS**



Provided employment services including: resume assistance, interview preparation, skills assessments, and job search assistance

\$129K **TO EMPLOYERS**



Grant funding to local businesses to help offset the costs of training new employees & to upskill their current employees, resulting in increased competitiveness of their businesses

\$172K **SCHOLARSHIPS**



To help pay tuition for our customers, allowing them to earn in-demand certifications, diplomas, and degrees

\$209K **TO PARTICIPANTS**



In supplies, tools, books, and other items as well as transportation expenses & child care expenses, allowing our customers to go to school, training, and work

\$40K **EMERGENCY GRANTS**



to community college students to help them overcome emergency situations that could have prevented them from completing their educational goals

23

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Hosted around the region, including virtual events, serving 1,493 job seekers

2 **GOVERNOR'S AWARDS**



Awarded Governor's NCWorks Awards of Distinction for Outstanding Young Adult & Outstanding Employer

412 **EMPLOYERS**



served to help them recruit, train and retain quality employees

\$42K **YOUTH WAGES**



to young adults while they worked with local employers to help them develop soft and hard skills, and explore potential career choices

GROWING PARTNERSHIPS



- Expanded #Worklocal initiative to expose local high school students to career opportunities in Northeastern NC
- Increased virtual employability assessments, workshops and outreach strategies (ex: customer texting platform)
- Assisted with Golden Leaf grant project at Elizabeth City State University to assist individuals with barriers to employment and/or training
- Developed and executed new Manufacturing Career Essentials training and a "Teach-the-Teacher" Bootcamp alongside College of the Albemarle
- Worked with Beaufort County Community College staff to develop collaboration opportunities for the benefit of our region's students, job-seekers, and employers

WWW.NWDBWORKS.COM
WWW.NCWORKS.GOV

**NC
works**

A proud partner of the
AmericanJobCenter
network

NWDB/NCWORKS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PROVIDER OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES. AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. DIAL 711 TO PLACE A FREE RELAY CALL IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Celebrating Staff

The month of October was Workforce Professionals month. Managers celebrated the staff by posting staff affirmations daily on social media.



The Dare County NCWorks Career Center staff celebration, mask edition.



ELIZABETH CITY CAREER CENTER OPENS

Residents seeking employment and career-related information have a new and expanded location where they can seek assistance. The NCWorks Career Center in Elizabeth City reopened in its new location at 111 Jordan Plaza, directly beside Domino's Pizza, Monday morning. The center relocated from its long-time address at 422 McArthur Drive. Heidi O'Neal, outreach coordinator for the center, said its new location is larger and includes classroom space to hold workshops for resume writing, improving interview skills and other job-search training, plus more computers that residents can use to write and print resumes. These services are offered at no cost to jobseekers. "It's all free," O'Neal said. "Anything that's job related they can do for free." The career center is assisting residents by appointment only, there are social distancing and other COVID-19 precautions in

place, she added. O'Neal says residents need to call to set an appointment or text "NCWorks Appointment" to 56512. By visiting the website ncworks.gov, job-seekers can find out more information about upcoming virtual workshops and job search opportunities. The Career Center also offers free services to business owners, such as posting job vacancies at its website, O'Neal said. Business owners also can access resumes for potential job candidates. In addition to the Career Center's website, residents can text NCWORKS to 56512 to receive job postings and other job-related information.

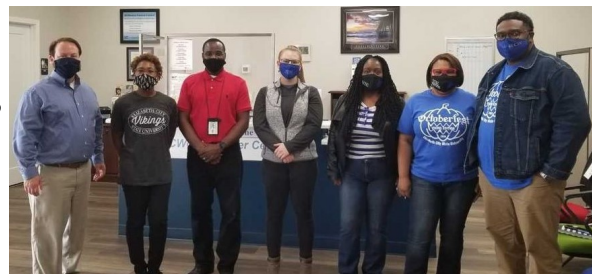
Source: Daily Advance



PROJECT GAP

David Whitmer, and Matthew Fowler, meet with ECSU Staff, October 30, 2020, to work on project GAP (Granting Advanced Preparation). Project GAP is a grant project funded by Goldenleaf and awarded to ECSU. The intent of Project GAP is to help individuals with significant barriers

to employment to obtain the skills and credentials needed to accomplish their career goals. Following the meeting the ECSU team toured the new NCWorks Career Center in Elizabeth City. NWDB and the NCWorks Career Center are proud partners with ECSU on Project GAP.



NEXTGEN CORNER

Have you ever heard the old saying, “take the lemons life gives you and make lemonade?” With the many challenges of the ongoing pandemic there are opportunities to put this saying into action. NCWorks NextGen took this opportunity to teach our young adults that many inventions, businesses and jobs are born out of economic hard times and the desire to solve a problem through entrepreneurial ventures. NextGen hosted a virtual entrepreneurial training entitled, HBCU-nomics: How to Leverage Education to Make Money at Any Age During a Recession. Along with introducing information about HBCUs, the seminar highlighted

developing an entrepreneurial outlook, changing mindsets, creating businesses, and protecting money generating ideas. HBCU-nomics author, Jamerus Payton and Intellectual Property & Business Attorney, Alicia Williams volunteered to facilitate this training by sharing their experiences, successes and tips about entrepreneurship and how to use talents to create jobs and drive economic growth while making money and building a career. Entrepreneurship training is one programming element NextGen uses to empower young adults to participate in contributing to their personal wealth and stimulate economic growth. Source: Lora Aples, NCWorks

#WORKLOCAL PERQUIMANS COUNTY

The Northeastern Workforce Development Board (NWDB) presented three posters to Perquimans County High School (PCHS) Superintendent Tanya Turner on Thursday, November 19, 2020, as part of its #worklocal Initiative. The #worklocal Initiative was created by the NWDB to encourage local high school students to remain in or return to their local community for employment. Posters created as part of the #worklocal Initiative are hung in the high schools of the NWDB 10 county region to create awareness of career pathways available to students in their local area that will provide them a stable and sustainable income. The graduates featured on the #worklocal Initiative

posters that represent Perquimans County are Calvin Boone, Owner of CB Auto, Tire & Service; Rebecca Story, Owner of Story’s Seafood Market & Restaurant; and Deputy Leroya Banks, with Perquiman’s County Sheriff’s Office and School Resource officer at Perquiman’s Middle School. NWDB’s Local Career Pathways Specialist, Amanda Patrick, works closely with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Directors in each county to create partnerships for the #worklocal initiative. PCHS offers a variety of CTE courses, striving to prepare students for local career opportunities. These courses include: Health Care, Advanced Manufacturing, Animal Science, Firefighter Tech-

nology, and Aquaculture. Jill Cohen, PCHS CTE Director states, “While small, PCHS offers many pathways and have a strong partnership with the College of the Albemarle. We have strived to make our courses align to our regional economic needs.” Source: Daily Advance



NCWorks Blast

Do you receive the NCWorks Weekly Blast for our region? Sign-up today to see the latest job postings on NCWorks and information from our Business Services team and local partner agencies! To sign-up, email Heidi O’Neal, NCWorks Outreach Coordinator at honeal@accog.org.



NCWorks Veteran’s Portal

Did you know that NCWorks.gov has a portal designed specifically for veterans? Visit veterans.ncworks.gov to take a look! Veterans can find jobs based on their military occupational code translated into the civilian sector. There are also links for resources such as how to get a copy of a DD-214 or how to find a local veteran service



Board of Directors

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Janet Russ, NWDB VICE CHAIR
Coastal Electric Contracting Company

Dave Carroll
Labor Organization, AFL-CIO

Larry Donley
Wagner-Peyser Act
NC Division of Workforce Solutions

Larry Lombardi
Economic Development
Currituck County

Rex Anderson
Business Representative
Regulator Marine

Dr. David Loope
Community Based Organization
yde Partnership for Children

Tameka Gibbs
The Division of Vocational
Rehabilitation Services

Sean Lavin
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TCOM, L.P.

Debra Falstad Keenan
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Vernon Brinkley
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JD Williamson
Business Representative
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Diane White
Business Representative
Domtar Company

Sandi Brickhouse Smith
Business Representative
Cherry Farms Seed Company, Inc.

Terri Gallop
Labor Organization
North Carolina Association of
Educators

Dr. Kimberly Gregory
Adult Education
College of The Albemarle

Richard Thorne, Jr.
Business Representative
HDM Associates

Montique McClary
Apprenticeship
City of Elizabeth City

The **Northeastern Workforce Development Board (NWDB)** is a group of community leaders appointed by local elected officials. The NWDB serves North Carolina's 10 most northeastern counties: Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties. The purpose of the NWDB is to provide policy, planning and oversight for local workforce development programs and to address workforce issues as identified by the communities that they represent. NWDB's mission is to foster employment of northeastern North Carolinians by enriching the skills and suitability of candidate employees for the businesses of the region.

Our Vision

Citizens and businesses of the Northeast region will rely on the board to promote the growth of well-paying jobs in new and existing businesses. Citizens in the region will be able to find satisfying employment here, and will choose not to move away.

Our Mission

The NWDB fosters employment of Northeastern North Carolinians by enriching the skills and suitability of candidate employees for the businesses of the region.

Our Core Purpose

To resolve workforce issues and challenges to meet Northeastern North Carolina employment needs.

Our Values

- One community, one team
- Forward looking and responsive to customer needs
- Embrace creativity • Nurturing hope for the future
- Integrity first and excellence in all we do
- Data driven, fact focused, relevant results



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NCWorks Career Centers and Outposts

Albemarle Commission
512 S. Church Street
Hertford, NC 27944
Phone: 252-426-5753

College of the Albemarle Manteo
132 Russell Twiford Rd.
Manteo, NC 27954
Cell: (252) 312-6852

Elizabeth City NCWorks Career Center
111 Jordan Plaza
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
Phone: 252-621-6350

Hyde County DSS
35015 US Hwy 264
Engelhard, NC 27824
Cell: (252) 312-6859

Dare NCWorks Career Center
2522 South Croatan Hwy.
Nags Head, NC 27959
Phone: (252) 480-3500

Hyde County Gvt. Bldg.
P.O. Box 5, 30 Oyster Creek Road
Swan Quarter, NC 27885
Cell: (252) 312-6859

Edenton-Chowan NCWorks Career Center
118 Blades Street, Building 3
Edenton, NC 27932
Phone: (252) 482-2195

Beaufort County Community College Roper
P.O. Box 503, 100 Hwy 32 N.
Roper, NC 27970
Cell: (252) 312-6859

Currituck DSS
2793 Caratoke Highway
Currituck, NC 27929
Phone: (252) 232-3083

Tyrrell County Finance Building
108 Water Street
Columbia, NC 27925
Cell: (252) 312-6859

College of the Albemarle Elizabeth City
1208 N. Road Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
Phone: (252) 335-0821

Gates DSS
P.O. Box 185, 122 Main Street
Gatesville, NC 27938
Cell: (252) 312-7357

Visit nwdbworks.com or networks.gov