

July 2020



Northeastern Workforce Development Board

ALBEMARLE COMMISSION
REGION R COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

News from the Northeast

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

This past quarter has certainly been one unlike anything that any of us could have expected. We have had to prioritize the safety of our staff and customers, while also delivering much needed services to businesses and job seekers. It has been challenging for all of us, but it has also been full of opportunity. With our Career Centers closed to public access, we have worked hard to ensure everyone knows that “NCWorks is Still Working.”

During the past quarter, we have been innovative in providing high-quality training opportunities virtually. We have recently purchased several new products to help accomplish this: WIN Career Readiness, Talevation Employee Assessment Software, Career Edge, and 14 Elements. While each of these products are different, overall, they provide skill assessment and development, with a particular focus on career readiness and soft skills. As our staff learn more about using these products, we will continue to increase our value to our business and job seeker customers. In addition to providing virtual training and assessment opportunities, we also hosted two virtual career fairs. Businesses are still hiring, job-seekers are still searching for work, and NCWorks is still working hard to help connect them.

Also, during this past quarter, I had the privilege of serving as the Interim Executive Director for the Albemarle Commission while the Commission’s Board of Delegates conducted their search for an Executive Director. (The Commission serves as Northeastern Workforce Development Board’s fiscal agent.) I am excited to report that Mike Ervin has been hired as the Commission’s Executive Director and started on July 6. Mr. Ervin previously worked as the Executive Director of the Edenton Historical Commission. We are glad to have him as part of our team!

Finally, I would like to recognize and to thank all of our staff who have stepped up and worked so very hard through all of the recent challenges. We have an outstanding team at the Northeastern Workforce Development Board, and I am proud to be part of it!

Best Wishes,

Dave Whitmer, Director

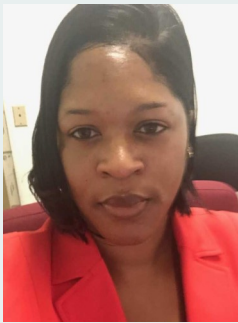


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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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- NWDB Confronts Needs
- NCWorks EC is Moving
- Funds to Help Local Students
- New Board Members
- Success Story



Shameka Hayes,
Career Advisor



Diane Hollowell,
Career Advisor



Amanda Patrick,
NWDB Local Career
Pathways Specialist

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Northeastern
Workforce
Development Board
on**



WELCOME NEW STAFF

The NCWorks Career Center and Northeastern Workforce Development Board (NWDB) welcomes Career Advisors, Shameka Hayes and Diane Hollowell, and NWDB Local Career Pathways Specialist, Amanda Patrick to the team. Shameka Hayes grew up in Harrellsville, NC and graduated from Roanoke Chowan Community College with an Associate’s Degree in Early Childhood Education and Shaw University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology. Her most recent position was at a local Steel Mill as a Human Resource Administrator. However, she has an extensive background in assisting children and families through a local Non-Profit Organization and is elated to return to a field allowing her the opportunity to assist others. Shameka states, “I am passionate about the needs of others, meeting people where they are and assisting them in their effort to achieve their goals.” Shameka will work in the Elizabeth City and Edenton NCWorks Career Centers. Diane Hollowell, grew up in Camden and currently lives in Elizabeth City. She previously worked in Human Resources

for 30 years at major retailer as their Personnel/Training coordinator. Diane states, “I have always tried to walk in another person's shoes. Two paths aren't the same, but together we both can succeed. It takes teamwork and I am honored and excited to be a part of the Northeastern Workforce Development Board team.” Diane will work in the Elizabeth City NCWorks Career Center. Amanda Patrick is a long-time resident of the Albemarle area, particularly Dare County, and comes to us from the NCWorks Dare County Center where she worked as a Career Advisor. Amanda brings many years’ experience in Agency work including Advertising, Marketing and Statistical Analysis, and volunteer work with at risk youth. Amanda’s focus as the Local Career Pathways Specialist is to expand the #worklocal campaign throughout the 10-county NWDB region. Overall, she will promote the NCWorks Career Center system to generate awareness among the youth of the region for promising career opportunities to help local companies fill current and future openings.

EDC RELIEF COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

The Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Economic Development Commission (EDC) announced \$250,000 in grants for existing retail, restaurant, and service businesses forced to close or scale back operations due to COVID-19. The EDC facilitates the grant process for the County, while also working with a 3-person committee to provide expertise and accountability. NCWorks Career Center Manager, Matthew Fowler was selected to be one of the individuals to serve on this 3-person committee. Congratulations Matthew!

NCWORKS ELIZABETH CITY MOVING LOCATIONS

The NCWorks Career Center in Elizabeth City will be moving to 111 Jordan Plaza in September. The new 5,866 square foot building will house state of the art computers in a larger customer resource center, allow for hosting of regularly scheduled soft skills and resume workshops and will offer greater technological capability for customers and staff. NC Works Career Centers provide resources for job seekers and employers. Job seekers can search for jobs, create resumes, and find education and training. Employers can search for candidates, post jobs, search labor market information and request pre-employment assessments. There

are also specialized services for veterans. Career Center Manager, Matthew Fowler, said “we are excited to have the opportunity to move into a brand-new building, offering the same great customer experience as always.”



NWDB RECEIVES FUNDS TO HELP STUDENTS

The Northeastern Workforce Development Board (NWDB) is proud to have partnered with The College of the Albemarle to provide Finish Line Grants (FLG) throughout the NWDB 10 county region. The Finish Line Grants program helps community college students who face unforeseen financial emergencies complete their training and stay on track to complete their degree or credential in the face of unexpected events that might otherwise cause them to drop out. On Friday, May 15, 2020, the NWDB was awarded \$9,800.00 in Finish Line Grant funds to purchase 10 laptop computers and associated software for a loaner program serving students affected by the pandemic and other hardships throughout the region. Community College

students faced with a financial hardship that are in need of a laptop computer will have the opportunity to apply to the loaner program through the NWDB to borrow a laptop to complete their school assignments. The transition to online learning has dramatically increased the number of community college students who need technological devices to attend and participate in training. The NWDB realized the need for a loaner program and proactively set about procuring the funds to assist students in need.

(Students attending Beaufort County Community College can apply for FLG's through the River's East Workforce Development Board.)



Around the Region

On June 9, 2020, John A. Holmes High School announced that Seniors, Damarrian Jackson and Adam Pippins, completed the Career Essentials program supported by the College of the Albemarle and Northeastern Workforce Development Board accepted jobs at Albemarle Boats.



NWDB, Assistant Director, Emily Nicholson drops off Employer Services booklets to Katrina Mann at the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce.



Confronting Needs

NCWorks Career Advisor, Angus Spencer and Assistant Director, Emily Nicholson assisted attendees with workforce needs Friday, June 19, 2020 at the Edenton Waterfront during the Racial Reconciliation Group peaceful march.



Virtual Career Fairs

The NCWorks Career Center staff utilized new Engage by Cell software to hold Virtual Career Fairs in June and July. Business Engagement Coordinator, Amber Morse states, “the Virtual Career Fairs were a huge success with over a dozen employers participating each time.” Engage by Cell offers short code texting allowing staff to send information through text and for participants and customers to “opt-in” to various information offerings.

WELCOME NWDB BOARD MEMBERS

Northeastern Workforce Development Board (NWDB) is proud to announce the appointment of 3 new members to the Board. NWDB Director, David Whitmer states, “We are excited to begin work with our new board members. They bring to our board a wealth of experience from a range of industries including secondary education, engineering, and human resources. Their backgrounds and knowledge will help to further the mission of the NWDB.”

Dr. Kimberly Gregory is the Director of College and Career Readiness at College of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Dr. Gregory is committed to assisting others in acquiring the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed to be successful in postsecondary education or obtaining training toward gainful employment. Dr. Gregory states, “this commitment, along with a desire to contribute to the reduction of barriers that prevent skillful employment are why I decided to join the Northeastern Workforce Development Board.” Dr. Gregory holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Elizabeth City State University, a master’s degree in Community/Clinical Psychology from Norfolk State University, and a doctorate of education in Community Care and Counseling from Liberty University. She is the mother of three daughters.

Mr. Richard Thorne, Jr. is currently the President of HDM Associates, Inc. in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. HDM Associates is a plumbing, mechanical, electrical and fire protection engineering and consulting firm. Originally founded in Virginia Beach, Virginia in 1998, the business recently relocated to Elizabeth City, NC. Mr. Thorne is a Licensed Professional Engineer and will bring over 40 years of experience as an engineer and small business manager to the board. Mr. Thorne says, “I look forward to learning more about the work of the Northeastern Workforce Development Board. I believe my knowledge and experience will contribute to further assist the Board into the future.” Mr. Thorne holds a bachelor’s degree in Engineering Technology from Old Dominion University. He enjoys woodworking, doing projects around the house with his wife, and bass fishing during his free time.

Montique McClary is the Director of Human Resources for the City of Elizabeth City. McClary has over 18 years’ experience in the field of human resources having worked for the City of Hampton, Va. and the city of Chesapeake, Va., prior to coming to Elizabeth City. She is responsible for recruitment and development of employees, ensuring personnel laws and regulations are followed and she oversees Elizabeth City’s Apprenticeship Program. She will bring a vast knowledge of Human Resources to the NWDB Board. McClary is a graduate of Hampton University and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in human relations management at Troy University.

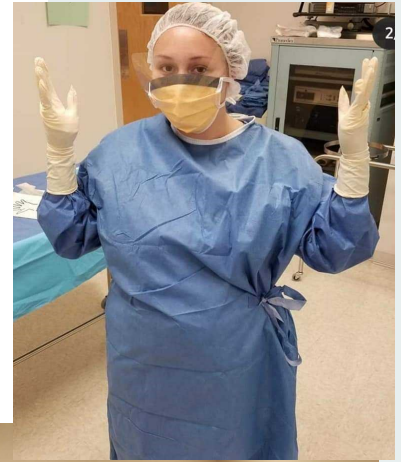


CAREER ADVISOR: SUCCESS STORY

When Anna contacted Career Advisor Paige Griffin about training services through NCWorks she was putting herself through college. As a single mother of two young children she was juggling school, work, and all the responsibilities that came along with being a parent. Anna was enrolled in the Surgical Technology program at the College of The Albemarle in Elizabeth City. It was taking her longer than usual to move through the program, as she was trying to work and to pay for school herself. Anna was living with her grandmother however, after her grandmother passed away, her family decided to sell the house, and she had to move. Trying to figure out how she would pay for both school and a place to live she came to the NCWorks Career Center for assistance. After meeting with her Ca-

reer Advisor, they jointly developed a plan to assist Anna with her needs. Since she only had 2 semesters remaining to graduate, she qualified for services under the WIOA Title 1 program. Thanks to the WIOA program, Anna did not have to pay for tuition, transportation, equipment, uniforms, or her state exams.

Through hard work and dedication, Anna graduated from the Surgical Technology program in December 2019 with 3.5 GPA. She had job offers from Sentara Albemarle and Norfolk General Hospitals and is now employed full-time at Outer Banks Hospital to be closer to home.



“If you can dream it, you can do it” - Walt Disney

STAFF TRAINING

Our staff continues to serve participants and customers even though NCWorks Career Centers are closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Managers continue to engage staff via virtual meeting software and continue to participate in virtual continuing education opportunities. In addition, staff have utilized training opportunities for several new software systems purchased for efficiency. In June, staff were trained to utilize both WIN Career Readiness System and Talevation Employee Assessment software. WIN Career Readiness System is a software system designed to assist customers with soft skills training and CRC score enhancement. Talevation is a software system that will be utilized by job seekers and employers. Talevation features over 1,500 assessments job seekers can take to

prove their skills to a wide variety of employers. Employers will utilize assessments taken by job seekers to find the perfect candidate.

Finally, NextGen staff participated in software training for Career Edge. Career Edge is a soft skills platform that will allow NextGen participants to participate in classes, real time interview skills training, resume preparation, and allow them to generate an online career presence.



Board of Directors

Zach Bray, NWDB CHAIR
Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

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
Hyde Partnership for Children

Tameka Gibbs
The Division of Vocational
Rehabilitation Services

Michael Twiddy
Higher Education
Elizabeth City State University

Sean Lavin
Business Representative
TCOM, L.P.

Debra Falstad Keenan
Business Representative
Moneysworth Linen Services

Vernon Brinkley
Business Representative
A.W. Brinkley Hardware, Inc.

JD Williamson
Business Representative
Williamson CPA, PLLC

Diane White
Business Representative
Domtar Company

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

Terri Gallop
Labor Organization
NC 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



Northeastern Workforce
Development Board
ALBEMARLE COMMISSION
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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
422 McArthur Drive
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
Phone: 252-331-4798

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

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