

MID-CAROLINA INSIGHTS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Cumberland County 490 North McPherson Church Road, Fayetteville NC 28303
Harnett County 900 South 9th Street, Lillington NC 27546
Moore County 245 Shepard Trail, Aberdeen, NC 28315
Sampson County 115 North Blvd, Clinton NC 28328
Montgomery County 1011 Page Street, Troy NC 27371

WHAT TO EXPECT THIS ISSUE

**Sampson County NCWorks
Career Center Staff Expand
Skills Through
Comprehensive Training**

**An Early Bird
Connection**

**NC Works Career
Center Showcased at
Leadership
Symposium**

**Moore County NC Works
Training on the New DVOP
Eligibility Screening Tool**

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INSPIRATION CORNER

- “The secret of getting ahead is getting started.” **Mark Twain**
- “The best way to predict the future is to create it.”
- “We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.” **Martin Luther King, Jr.**
- “Creative words generate energy; negative words drain out energy.” **Robert H. Schuller**

Sampson Spotlight



Sampson County NCWorks Career Center Staff Expand Skills Through Comprehensive Training

The NCWorks Career Center staff recently completed a series of professional development courses, enhancing their knowledge and skills to better serve the community.

- **Josue Pacheco** completed **DES Confidentiality 101, Cyber Security: Insider Threat Foundations, Privacy: The Difference Between Privacy and Cybersecurity, and Privacy: Data Privacy Basics (2025).**
- **Tramaine Orellana** participated in **Cyber Security: Insider Threat Foundations, Privacy: The Difference Between Privacy and Cybersecurity, and Privacy: Data Privacy Basics (2025).**
- **Asenet Gutierrez-Prieto** also completed **Cyber Security: Insider Threat Foundations, Privacy: The Difference Between Privacy and Cybersecurity, and Privacy: Data Privacy Basics (2025).**
- **Cynthia Oates** expanded her expertise with **Cyber Security Training (February 2025), Privacy Training (February 2025), History of Workforce Development (WtW), Writing Effective Case Notes, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: Introduction, Work Smarter, Not Harder - Virtually, and NCWO 101 Class.**
- **Sandra Webster** focused on reentry services, completing **Reentry Basics - Module 7: No-Cost Legal Counsel and Other Resources, Reentry Basics - Module 6: Expunction and Other Resources, Reentry Basics - Module 4: Federal Bonding and WOITC, Reentry Basics - Module 3: NCWorks Online for Reentry, and REI Training.**

These continued learning efforts ensure that the NCWorks team remains well-equipped to provide exceptional support and resources to job seekers and employers in the community. Congratulations to all participants for their dedication to growth and service excellence!

More from Moore



Best Practices in Supporting Career Development for Individuals with Disabilities

At the NCWorks Career Center-Moore County, we are committed to creating a more supportive and effective environment for individuals with disabilities. By leveraging the strengths of our local Employment and Independence for People with Disability (EIPD) program, we have been able to focus on the unique needs of these individuals and enhance their opportunities for career development.

Some key practices that have proven successful in this collaboration include:

- **Job Readiness Workshops and Training:** We organize and refer individuals with disabilities to specialized workshops and training sessions that focus on job readiness, interview skills, soft skills, and resume writing. These programs are specifically tailored to address the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. Jessica Thomas, our Career Advisor II, provides one-on-one career advising to ensure personalized support for each individual.
- **Centralized Resource Repository:** The Career Center maintains a centralized repository of resources, including job leads and training programs. Employment and Independence for People with Disability staff can easily access and share these resources with their clients. This partnership has been particularly successful, as several of their clients were hired during our recent hiring events.
- **Employer Outreach:** We actively collaborate on outreach to employers to promote the hiring of individuals with disabilities. By building awareness and fostering inclusive hiring practices, we aim to increase employment opportunities for this group.

Robert Talbert's Journey to Employment with Sampson County NCWorks Support

On May 28, 2024, Robert Talbert relocated from New Hanover County to Sampson County. He visited the Sampson County NCWorks Career Center to inquire on available training programs. Mr. Talbert received information on training providers and programs. He was also assisted with resume preparation and job search assistance from Career Advisor, Tramaine Orellana. As a result of the partnership with the Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program that is operated under the National Council on Aging (NCOA) in our Center by Annette Faircloth, NCOA Employment Facilitator, Mr. Talbert was enrolled in On-the-Job Training located at the Coharie Tribe in Sampson County.



Robert Talbert's dedication and hard work led to full-time employment. On February 11, 2025, Mr. Tolbert secured a full-time position as a custodian at the Coharie Tribe in Sampson County.

Pictured at left: Tramaine Orellana, Middle: Robert Talbert, and to the right: Annette Faircloth.



Kenyetta Thompson visited the NCWorks Career Center in Sampson County to search for employment opportunities after being laid off from her place of employment in December 2024. Tramaine Orellana, Career Advisor assisted Kenyetta by providing her with information regarding training and training providers. Kenyetta received assistance with resume preparation and job search assistance. Kenyetta was also referred to the WIOA program for training. However, she chose to seek employment. As a result of her assistance from Career Advisor Tramaine Orellana, Kenyetta obtained employment as a Food Lion Customer Service Assistant Manager in February 2025.

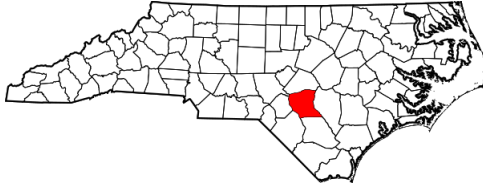
Pictured at left: Kenyetta Thompson



An Early Bird Connection:

Regina Smalls, Moore County NC Works Career Center Manager, attended the Moore County Chamber of Commerce Early Bird Connection and Breakfast at Dewberry Café in Cameron, North Carolina on February 18, 2025. During the event, she presented our services to local employers, several of whom expressed interest in utilizing our assistance.

Call for Cumberland



NC Works Career Center Showcased at Leadership Symposium

On February 1, 2025, Ann Zell, a dedicated representative from the Cumberland County NC Works Career Center, took the stage at the Christ United Apostolic Alliance REGION 2 Leadership Symposium to highlight the impactful services provided by the Career Center and their alignment with community outreach efforts.

The symposium, attended by church leaders and community advocates from across the region, served as a platform to inspire and equip attendees for their ongoing work in uplifting their congregations and neighborhoods.

Zell's presentation focused on how NC Works supports individuals in achieving educational and career goals and how these services complement the outreach that open pathways for job seekers and strengthens community ties.



What's Up Harnett



Harnett County Kicks Off 2025 with Community Engagement and Recruitment Events

Harnett County, NC – The first quarter of 2025 has been a busy time for Harnett County, with a series of community-focused events aimed at supporting local residents, fostering education, and promoting career opportunities. From food pantry distributions to educational meetings and recruitment initiatives, the county is demonstrating its commitment to building a stronger, more connected community.

The year started with a focus on addressing food insecurity and raising awareness. On January 9, the Harnett County Food Pantry held a distribution event, ensuring that families in need had access to essential resources. This initiative reflects the county's ongoing efforts to combat hunger and support vulnerable populations.

On January 16, Harnett County leveraged social media to engage with residents, sharing updates and resources to keep the community informed. Social media outreach has become a vital tool for local organizations to connect with residents, promote events, and provide real-time information.

Unfortunately, a planned event, the CCCC Reconnect, scheduled for January 22, was canceled due to inclement weather.



Sampson County Staff Development Day Promotes Learning and Collaboration

A professional staff development day was set aside on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, for Sampson County Center staff to learn new skills, collaborate with

colleagues, and connect with their team members and partners.

This day provided an opportunity for staff to learn new information and strengthen their relationships with their team members. Pictured above is Lorria Troy, Operations Consultant for Mid-Carolina Regional Council (pictured on the right) who provided information to staff regarding the ARPA Program, and the allocation of the program funding for the (1) NCWorks Substance Use Disorder Recovery Grant, (2) the NCWorks Reentry Support Grant for justice-involved individuals, and the (3) NCWorks Small Business Work-Based Learning Grant.



Cindy Smith, Business Relations Representative for the Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities (EIPD) / NC Department of Health and Human Services (pictured on the left). Provided program information on the EIPD program. Each year EIPD help thousands of people overcome disability-related barriers and achieve their goals for competitive employment and more independent living in their community.



Pictured above are Center staff and partners who participated in the January 15th Professional Staff Development Day from the NC Department of Commerce/Division of Workforce Solutions, the Sampson Community College, Equus Workforce Solutions, Southeast Non-Profit Housing Inc., the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Council on Aging. Professional Staff Development Day focused on ensuring that our staff and partners' competencies were updated to meet the communication and referral requirements that will meet the needs of the customers we serve.

Economic Insights and Regional Growth Discussed at Greater Fayetteville Business Journal Power Breakfast

On February 27, 2025, R. Godsave attended the Greater Fayetteville Business Journal's Power Breakfast, themed "Economic Horizons." The event featured esteemed guest speaker Tom Barkin, President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, who provided valuable insights into the current economic landscape.

Barkin's remarks focused on the impact of inflation on the economy, offering perspectives on how businesses and communities can navigate these challenges. His analysis underscored the importance of resilience and strategic planning in uncertain economic times.

The event also highlighted regional economic advancements. Scott Dorney of the North Carolina Military Business Center (NCNBC) shared the impressive milestone of \$2.37 billion in federal contracts awarded to businesses in Cumberland County. This substantial investment marks a significant boost for the local economy, supporting job creation and business growth.

Additionally, Dr. Stanley Wearden, President of Methodist University, discussed the promising future benefits stemming from the university's upcoming medical school. The establishment of this institution is expected to enhance healthcare access, create educational opportunities, and drive economic development in the region.

The Power Breakfast provided a platform for leaders to exchange ideas and collaborate on strategies to foster economic resilience and growth. Events like these continue to strengthen connections within the community and build a more prosperous future for the region.



Project Fresh Start New Beginning Conference: Empowering Reentry in Cumberland County

On February 2, 2025, Career Center staff had the opportunity to speak to an audience of over 100 attendees at the Project Fresh Start New Beginning Conference held at the Cumberland County Department of Social Services. The event focused on NC Commerce and NCWorks Reentry initiatives, highlighting essential services designed to support individuals transitioning back into the workforce.

After informative presentations by participating organizations, attendees were able to engage directly with representatives from various resource organizations. These included the Cumberland County Department of Social Services, NC Legal Aid, Cumberland County District Attorney's Office, Fayetteville Technical Community College, CCSO, PWC, and Cumberland County HR, among others.

Chester Lambert and Ray Godsave, who represented the Career Center, were able to connect individuals with valuable resources, offering them a clear path to career development, job opportunities, and support services for reentry. This conference provided a great platform for collaboration, offering a wealth of information to those seeking a fresh start.



Harnett County NC Works Success Stories



Austin Lilly : WIOA Dislocated Worker

Austin is an Active-Duty United States Air Force Servicemember. He came into the Harnett County Career Center seeking assistance that would enable him to enhance his current skill sets, become more marketable, and self-sufficient as he was preparing for his transition to the Civilian Community. Austin enrolled in the Harnett County WIOA Dislocated Worker Program on January 9, 2025. He sought WIOA training services with Logistics and Distribution Management (L&DM) Program at Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC). Austin enrolled in the L&DM Training at FTCC on January 13, 2025. He successfully completed his training on March 5, 2025, and was awarded a Completion of Training Certificate for L&DM. His determination to successfully complete the L&DM Training while transitioning from the military, enhanced his skill sets and have made him more marketable, and more self-sufficient which will benefit him tremendously once he separates from the military.

Adam Loprete: WIOA Dislocated Worker

Adam, an Active-Duty United States Army Servicemember, came into the Career Center seeking assistance that would enable him to enhance his current skill sets, become more marketable, and self-sufficient as he transitioned to the Civilian Community. He enrolled in the Harnett County WIOA Dislocated Worker Program on January 10, 2025, seeking WIOA assistance with Occupational Skills Training in Logistics and Distribution Management (L&DM). Adam enrolled in the L&DM Training at FTCC on January 13, 2025, and successfully completed his training on March 5, 2025 and was awarded a Completion of Training Certificate for L&DM. Adam's determination to successfully complete his L&DM Training enabled him to enhance his skill sets, become more marketable, and more self-sufficient. The L&DM Training provided him with valuable job skills that will be very beneficial once he separates from the military and transitions into the Civilian Community.



Brian Phillips: WIOA Dislocated Worker

Brian, an Active-Duty United States Army Servicemember, enrolled into the Harnett County WIOA Dislocated Worker Program on January 17, 2025, seeking assistance with Occupational Skills Training in the Logistics and Distribution Management (L&DM) Program at Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC). He enrolled in the L&DM Training at FTCC on January 21, 2025. Brian successfully completed his training on March 5, 2025, and was awarded a Completion of Training Certificate for L&DM. The obtained job skills and training afforded Brian to be more marketable and self-sufficient.

Nathan Springs: WIOA Dislocated Worker

Nathan, an Active Duty United States Army Servicemember, enrolled into the Harnett County WIOA Dislocated Worker Program on January 8, 2025, seeking WIOA assistance with training services in Logistics and Distribution Management (L&DM) Training Program at FTCC. He enrolled in the L&DM Training at FCC on January 13, 2025. Nathan successfully completed his L&DM Training on March 5, 2025 and was awarded a L&DM Completion of Training Certificate.





Elliot Vancil-
Ventura: WIOA
Dislocated Worker

Elliot is an Active-Duty United States Army Servicemember. He came into the Harnett County NCWorks Career Center seeking training services assistance in the Logistics Career Field that would enable him to enhance his current skill sets, become more marketable, and self-sufficient as he was preparing for transition to the Civilian Community. Elliot enrolled in the Harnett County WIOA Dislocated Worker Program on January 15, 2025. He enrolled in the EMT-Basic Training at Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) on January 21, 2025. Elliot successfully completed his training on March 25, 2025, and was awarded a Completion of Training Certificate for EMT-Basic. His determination to successfully complete his training enabled Elliot to be better prepared to obtain employment once he separates from the military.



Sherman Stover: WIOA
Dislocated Worker

Sherman, a military Servicemember serving in the United States Army at Ft Liberty, NC, came into the Career Center seeking WIOA assistance with training services in the Logistics Career Field while preparing to separate from the military and embark on his retirement after 20+ years of active service. Sherman enrolled into the WIOA Dislocated Worker Program at the Harnett County NCWorks Career Center. With assistance from his Case Manager, Sherman enrolled in the Logistics & Distribution Management (L&DM) Training Program at Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) on January 13, 2025. He successfully completed his training at FTCC on March 5, 2025, and was awarded an L&DM Certificate of Completion. Sherman has received a soft job offer from Lockheed Martin for a position as a Logistics Manager at Ft Bragg, NC with a projected salary range of \$89,000.00 - \$96,000.00; however, due to him still being in the military Lockheed Martin cannot make him a legitimate offer until he retires on May 1, 2025.

NCWORKS CAREER CENTER-HARNETT COUNTY HELPS HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS STAFF NEW ERWIN LOCATION



NCWorks Career Center-Harnett County recently played a vital role in helping Harbor Freight Tools meet its hiring needs for the grand opening of its new store in Erwin, NC. To support their recruitment efforts, NCWorks hosted multiple hiring events on January 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, 30th, and 31st, as well as February 5th. These events attracted 76 job seekers, resulting in 31 successful hires for positions including Seasonal Workers, Associates, and Supervisors. The starting pay for these roles ranged from \$15.50 to \$18.50 per hour.

Tony, the store manager for Harbor Freight Tools, praised the NCWorks Career Center-Harnett County team for their exceptional support throughout the hiring process. In a glowing Google review, he shared:

"I worked with NCWorks to staff two retail stores with seasonal and permanent staff, and they exceeded expectations. The team was professional and focused on executing a smooth, successful hiring process. Their marketing brought in great candidates, and they managed scheduling and logistics flawlessly. They were also a huge help during the hiring events, ensuring everything ran efficiently. I highly recommend them for anyone looking to streamline staffing with a dedicated, professional team. I am greatly appreciative of their support and hard work. Thank you all so much!"

The Harnett County Workforce Development/Career Center staff and partners remain dedicated to providing high-quality services to both employers and job seekers. Their mission is to offer effective and efficient workforce solutions that strengthen the local economy and create sustainable employment opportunities.

In addition to supporting businesses, NCWorks Career Center-Harnett County has been actively assisting job seekers through various initiatives, including the NCBA Senior Employment Program. Participants in this program received job search assistance workshops focused on completing applications and learning best practices for effective job search techniques.

Through these efforts, NCWorks Career Center-Harnett County continues to demonstrate its commitment to empowering individuals and businesses, fostering growth, and ensuring a thriving workforce in the region.

WIOA and ARPA Programs Empower Job Seekers in Harnett County

The NCWorks Career Center-Harnett County continues to make a lasting impact through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) programs. These initiatives provide work-based learning opportunities, training, and job placement assistance to individuals seeking career advancement. Here are five inspiring success stories of individuals who have benefited from these programs.

Destiny Smith: WIOA Adult Program Success

Destiny Smith enrolled in the WIOA Adult Program seeking hands-on experience to complement her associate's degree in Sociology. Through a paid work experience at the Harnett County Department of Social Services (DSS), she gained valuable workplace skills as an Income Maintenance Technician I from August 13, 2024, to November 15, 2024. Her dedication and training led to a full-time, unsubsidized position at Harnett County DSS as an Income Maintenance Technician II, earning \$16.63 per hour with benefits.

Nicholas Falcone: ARPA Small Business Work-Based Learning

After being laid off, Nicholas Falcone turned to the ARPA Small Business Work-Based Learning Program for an opportunity to continue his career in construction. With years of experience and an OSHA 10 certification, he applied for a Project Manager position at McLeod Home Services. Through an On-the-Job Training (OJT) contract, Nicholas was hired directly and began his training on February 3, 2025, earning \$32.00 per hour while enhancing his project management skills.

Andreina McIver: A Second Chance through ARPA

As a single parent, Andreina McIver enrolled in the ARPA Program on September 19, 2024, to gain new skills and improve her employability. She participated in a Paid Work Experience (WEX) with Harnett County DSS as an Income Maintenance Technician I from October 14, 2024, to January 16, 2025. Upon completing her WEX, she attended a hiring event at the Harnett County NCWorks Career Center and secured full-time, unsubsidized employment as a Logistics Supervisor with a salary of \$18.50 per hour and full benefits. Andreina began her new career on February 21, 2025.

Kalayla Kelly: Overcoming Barriers with WIOA NextGen

At 19 years old, Kalayla Kelly, a single parent working part-time, enrolled in the WIOA NextGen Program to build a stable career. She pursued a BIOWorks Processing Technician certification at Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) to secure better employment. With support from her family and WIOA services, Kalayla successfully earned her certification and is now working with her career advisor to find work-based learning opportunities that will lead to full-time employment.

Kayla Tapia: From Student to Legal Professional

Kayla Tapia joined the WIOA NextGen Program at 18 years old on July 15, 2021, seeking career counseling and educational guidance. Despite challenges, she successfully completed coursework at Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) and gained hands-on experience as a Legal Assistant through a paid work experience at the Phair Law Firm. With the support of her family and WIOA services, Kayla earned her Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Criminal Justice Technology on December 11, 2024. She is now actively job searching and exploring work-based learning opportunities.

These success stories highlight the positive impact of the WIOA and ARPA programs in Harnett County. By providing training, work experience, and job placement support, NCWorks Career Center-Harnett County continues to help individuals overcome challenges and achieve their career goals.

For more information on how NCWorks programs can support your career journey, visit your local NCWorks Career Center.



2 MOORE COUNTY
ND Chance
JOB
& FAIR
& Resource Event

APRIL 24, 2025 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
ABERDEEN LAKE PARK RECREATION STATION
301 LAKE PARK CROSSING
ABERDEEN, NC 28315

- EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
- EXPUNCTION & LEGAL SERVICES
- EDUCATION & TRAINING ASSISTANCE
- HEALTHCARE SERVICES

To register, scan QR code or call the Moore County NCWorks Career Center at 910-944-7697

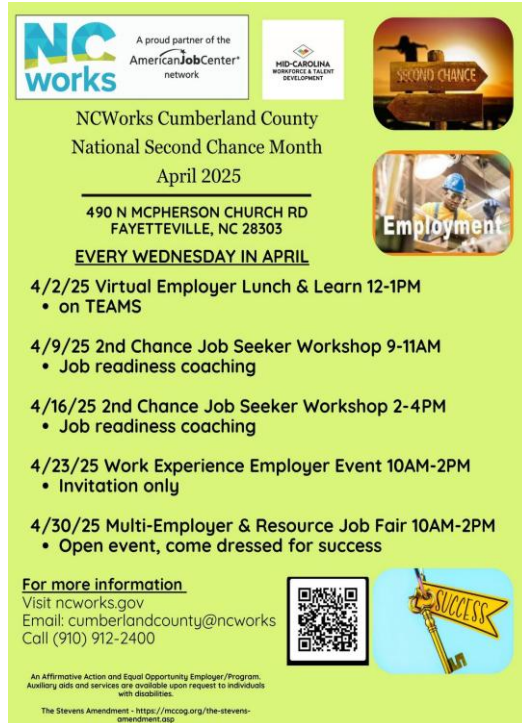
Logos: NC works, AmericanJobCenter network, VAN CAMP, MEACHAM & NEWMAN, MID-CAROLINA WORKFORCE & TALENT DEVELOPMENT

An Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. The Stevens Amendment- www.mccog.org- https://mccog.org/the-stevens-amendment.as



MID-CAROLINA
Workforce Development Board

What's Coming Up.....



NC works A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter network

MID-CAROLINA WORKFORCE & TALENT DEVELOPMENT

SECOND CHANCE

Employment

NCWorks Cumberland County
National Second Chance Month
April 2025

490 N MCPHERSON CHURCH RD
FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28303

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN APRIL

- 4/2/25 Virtual Employer Lunch & Learn 12-1PM
 - on TEAMS
- 4/9/25 2nd Chance Job Seeker Workshop 9-11AM
 - Job readiness coaching
- 4/16/25 2nd Chance Job Seeker Workshop 2-4PM
 - Job readiness coaching
- 4/23/25 Work Experience Employer Event 10AM-2PM
 - Invitation only
- 4/30/25 Multi-Employer & Resource Job Fair 10AM-2PM
 - Open event, come dressed for success

For more information
Visit ncworks.gov
Email: cumberlandcounty@ncworks
Call (910) 912-2400

SUCCESS

An Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. The Stevens Amendment - https://mccog.org/the-stevens-amendment.as



AIRBORNE

North Carolina Food Service
Job Opportunities

NCFS is a joint venture that was formed in 2006 to provide food services to the military at Fort Bragg. NCFS through its 7 dining facilities is providing 1.5 million meals annually to our fighting forces.

HIRING EVENT

Moore County NCWorks Career Center
245 Shepherd Trail, Aberdeen, NC 28315

Thursday, April 3, 2025
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

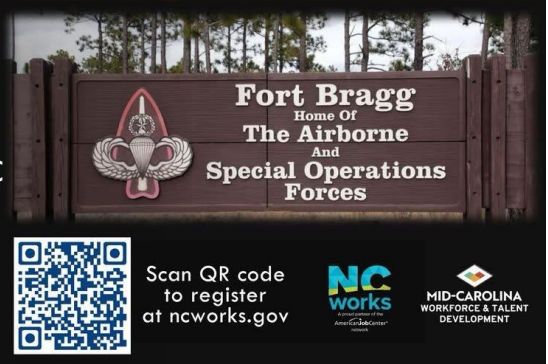
FT Cook II: \$20.07 Hr, Camp Mackall, NC

FT Food Sanitation Specialist: \$17.85 Hr, Camp Mackall, NC

Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent; relevant certifications in food safety preferred. Previous experience in a sanitation or cleaning role, preferably in a food service environment. Knowledge of sanitation and safety standards in the food industry. Strong attention to detail and ability to follow instructions. Ability to work independently and as part of a team. - Flexibility in work schedule, including evenings and weekends and holidays.

Please have a resume available. Resume assistance is available at NCWorks.

An Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. The Stevens Amendment- www.mccog.org- https://mccog.org/the-stevens-amendment.as

Fort Bragg
Home Of
The Airborne
And
Special Operations
Forces

Scan QR code to register at ncworks.gov

NC works

MID-CAROLINA WORKFORCE & TALENT DEVELOPMENT

An Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. The Stevens Amendment - https://mccog.org/the-stevens-amendment.as

Cumberland County NC Works Career Center Shines in Employer Engagement Efforts

The NC Works Career Center continues to strengthen its ties with local and regional employers, fostering partnerships that empower job seekers and support workforce development. Our dedicated staff has been hard at work connecting with a diverse array of organizations, ensuring that individuals in our community have access to meaningful career opportunities. Here's a spotlight on the impressive employer engagement efforts led by our team members as of March 26, 2025.

K. Davis has been a driving force in building relationships with a wide range of employers, including Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC), Methodist University, NC Growers Association Inc., Blue Chip Facility Services, Cumberland County Government, Executive Personnel Group, A Cut Above the Rest Cleaning Services, and Jenkins Empowerment Consulting LLC. These partnerships span education, government, and private sectors, showcasing a commitment to opening doors for job seekers across industries.

T. Ferguson has focused efforts on Southeastern General Contracting Inc., laying the groundwork for opportunities in the construction and contracting field. This targeted engagement highlights the Career Center's dedication to supporting skilled trades and infrastructure development in the region.

M. Field has cultivated an impressive network, collaborating with Eco Building Corporation, Greater Life of Fayetteville Inc., Fortitude Counseling Associates PLLC (noted twice for their strong involvement), Jenkins Empowerment, ROOTS Mentoring, Money Box Academy Inc., and Blissful Alchemist Inc. This diverse mix of employers—from sustainable building to mentoring and financial education—reflects a holistic approach to workforce support.

R. Godsave has connected with HireQuest Direct and JJ Wright and Associates, two organizations that offer staffing solutions and professional services. These partnerships are key to helping individuals find flexible and specialized employment options.

Finally, **C. Lambert** has taken employer engagement to new heights, working with an extensive list of prominent organizations: Hoke County Association for Developmental Disabilities Inc., Eaton, US Army Medical Command, Cumberland County Government, Cumberland County Department of Social Services, Cumberland County Schools, Recruit Military LLC, Amazon Corporate LLC, Employment Source Inc., NC Department of Adult Corrections, Military Sealift Command, Randstad USA, Manpower, Duke Energy Progress LLC, and the US Postal Service. This broad reach underscores the Career Center's role as a vital link between job seekers and major employers in government, military, education, and corporate sectors.

These efforts demonstrate the NC Works Career Center's unwavering commitment to bridging the gap between talent and opportunity. By engaging with such a wide variety of employers, our team ensures that individuals like William Evans—whose recent thank-you note praised staff members like Ms. Lambert for helping him earn his GED—have the resources and pathways to succeed. Together, we're building a stronger, more connected workforce for our community. Stay tuned for more updates on how NC Works is making a difference!

Connecting with Local Organizations to Support Homelessness Programs



On February 12, 2025, B. Howell, T. Gilchrist, and T. Lambert attended a crucial board meeting for the Fayetteville/Cumberland Continuum of Care on Homelessness program, joining representatives from approximately 16 participating organizations. The event provided an excellent platform to engage with community leaders and organizations committed to addressing homelessness and supporting those in need in the Fayetteville and Cumberland areas.

The following organizations were in attendance, all working toward the common goal of alleviating homelessness and offering vital services:

- Fayetteville/Cumberland Continuum of Care on Homelessness (FCCCH)
- Legal Aid of NC
- Cumberland Health Net
- NPA City of Fayetteville
- Spring Lake Family Support Services
- Veterans Bridge Home
- DC2
- Transition Women Non-profit Academy
- Carolina Collaborative Community Care
- Dogwood Healthcare Network
- Myrover-Reese Fellowship Home
- Care Center (Department of Social Services)
- VA Homeless Program
- Fayetteville Police Department – Resource Department
- Cape Fear Valley Behavioral Health
- Department of Social Services – Medicaid



During the meeting, team members provided information on the NCWorks – Cumberland Career Center Services. This initiative offers vital resources to assist individuals in finding employment and training opportunities, particularly those who are experiencing or have experienced homelessness. By collaborating with these local organizations, we aim to help empower individuals to take steps toward self-sufficiency and stability through access to career development services.

We're proud to continue working with these organizations to create a more supportive environment for those in need and to ensure that our services reach the people who will benefit most. Together, we can make a real difference in our community.

Cumberland County AD/DW Success Story **Submitted by Demetria Sconniers**

Erica Evangelist visited the office looking for assistance with taking dental assistance courses at NC Dental U. She was not in the position to pay for her courses, so we discussed what her future plans were. We got her signed up for classes with the school and she started class on September 9, 2024. She followed the guidelines of the program and submitted her attendance sheets in a timely manner as they were due. She did so well in class she was able to land a job offer before

she even graduated the program. She started work with Carolina's Dentist on November 4, 2024, as a Dental assistant. They allowed her to work the front desk until her graduation on December 4. Now she is cross trained to work the front desk and as a dental assistant with her employer. She works 4 days per work for 10 hours per day. She is even considering going back to school for an associate degree in the dental industry.

Cumberland County JVSG Success Story **Submitted by Beth Howell**

Mr. Patrick Melvin, a client facing qualifying employment barriers, visited the Fort Bragg NCWorks Career Center in November 2024, expressing significant concern regarding his ability to supplement his income following the conclusion of his job contract. Recognizing the urgency of his situation, I enrolled him in our Individualized Career Planning Veteran Services. During this process, I provided information about his Vocational Readiness and Employment (VR&E/(Chapter 31) benefits (contact persons), WIOA programs (referrals), and the array of services available at the center.

To enhance his employability, Mr. Melvin participated in our OBTT workshops, where I assisted him in refining his resume. We also reviewed essential job search strategies, cover letter composition, interview techniques, and appropriate attire for professional interviews and hiring events, with the aim of bolstering his confidence throughout his job search journey. I informed him about upcoming career fairs scheduled for November 2024 and January 2025, facilitating opportunities for networking with various organizations. I maintained regular follow-up communications with Mr. Melvin to ensure he felt supported and to address any assistance he might require.

On February 4, 2025, I conducted a follow-up call with Mr. Melvin to assess his progress with job applications. I was pleased to learn that he had successfully interviewed for a position as a Military Personnel Specialist (HR) at a company named Patriot, with a starting salary of \$22.00 per hour and benefits, set to commence on February 20, 2025. Mr. Melvin conveyed his appreciation for the resources provided by the NCWorks – Fort Bragg Access Point, noting that he had not previously understood the comprehensive information available through our program. Additionally, he expressed his intention to share the insights he gained about NCWorks with many of his former military colleagues and their families, thereby extending the impact of our services within the community.

Moore County NC Works Training on the New DVOP Eligibility Screening Tool –

Submitted by: Tremictrus Fairley

Ms. Tremictrus Shaw Fairley, Veterans Employment Consultant II with Moore County NCWorks, recently conducted an essential training session for NCWorks Career Center staff on the implementation of the new Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) Eligibility Screening Tool on February 7, 2025. This tool is designed to enhance the identification process for veterans with qualifying employment barriers (QEB) to employment, ensuring they receive the specialized services and resources needed for career success.

During the training, Ms. Shaw Fairley provided an in-depth overview of the screening tool, explaining its purpose, functionality, and how staff can use it effectively to determine veteran eligibility for individualized career services. She guided staff through real-world scenarios, demonstrating how to identify veterans who require intensive assistance and how to document their needs accurately to streamline referrals.

Her expertise and engaging approach fostered an interactive learning environment, allowing staff to ask questions and gain hands-on experience with the tool. As a result of this training, NCWorks staff are now better equipped to connect veterans with tailored employment services, including job placement, resume development, skills training, and supportive resources.

Ms. Shaw Fairley's leadership in delivering this training strengthens the center's mission to serve veterans with excellence, ensuring that those who have served our country receive the employment support they deserve. Her promise to empower both veterans and career center staff reflects her devotion to making a meaningful impact within the veteran community.

This successful training session marks a significant step forward in enhancing service delivery for veterans at NCWorks, reinforcing the center's role as a trusted resource for those transitioning into civilian careers.



"Empowering Job Seekers: Moore NCWorks Brings Workforce Guidance to Montgomery County Health Department"

Montgomery County Health Department – 02/25/2025 & 2/19/2025

Moore NCWorks is committed to offering comprehensive workforce support through NCWorks Online and other digital tools. Services include resume preparation, enhancing social media presence, accessing job listings, submitting online applications, and completing skills assessments. Staff will also provide valuable insights on maintaining a positive attitude, career planning, effective interviewing techniques, and other best practices to boost employability.

Additionally, participants will learn about various training programs available through our center that may provide financial assistance for acquiring credentials and enhancing their skills. The ultimate goal is to empower individuals with the resources and knowledge needed to secure employment, achieve self-sufficiency, and reduce recidivism.

The Moore Career Center staff will be available every other Wednesday from **9:00 AM to 3:00 PM** at the Montgomery County Health Department in **Troy, NC**.

Moore County NCWorks Toyota NA Day of Work Assessment Events



TOYOTA

We recently hosted two *Toyota North America Day of Work Assessment* events that provided valuable insight into the hiring process at Toyota North America. On February 13, 2025, Moore County held a Partners Meeting, followed by Montgomery County on February 27, 2025. Allen Davis, Talent Management Analyst at Toyota NA, guided us through the essential steps jobseekers encounter when applying for positions at Toyota North America.

These sessions offered an excellent opportunity for career centers, community colleges, workforce development agencies, and other partners to gain a deeper understanding of Toyota’s culture and the process for identifying top candidates. Participants left better equipped to support jobseekers in preparing and selecting

qualified applicants for Toyota’s hiring needs.

Additionally, Toyota North America is working closely with NCWorks Career Centers in the local area to fulfill their workforce requirements. As part of this partnership, Toyota NA and NCWorks Career Centers hosted “*Day of Work Assessment Readiness*” events for the general public on **March 6, 2025** at Montgomery Community College and **March 20, 2025** at Sandhills Community College.

We are grateful for the participation of our local partners and agencies in these sessions, which continue to support our community’s workforce development efforts.



Sandhills/Moore Coalition of Human Care

Tim Ingram provided valuable job seeker services to clients utilizing the Sandhills/Moore Coalition’s weekly offerings. As part of the Coalition’s support, clients are required to actively engage in job search activities to qualify for services.

The Coalition’s mission is to "alleviate hunger and the financial strains of struggling households in Moore County." This vital work is made possible through the generous support of the community, dedicated volunteers, and proceeds from sales at The Coalition Resale Shops.



All employer’s visits were to promote NCWorks services and an invitation to the 2nd Chance Job Fair. The following employer’s visits were conducted during the month of February:

- Jordan Lumber - 2/19/2025 - (Montgomery County)
- McRae Industries – 2/19/2025 (Montgomery County)
- Godfather Pizza – 2/21/2025 – (Moore County)
- Southern Products & Silica Company – 2/24/2025 (Moore County)
- G7TIIC – 2/24/2025 – (Moore County)
- BRS Aerospace – 2/24/2025 – (Moore County)
- Southmoore Heating & Cooling – 2/24/2025 (Moore County)
- The Plumbing Knight – 2/25/2025 (Moore County)
- Ripple Fiber – 02/25/2025 (Moore County)
- Rhetson Companies Inc. – 02/25/2025 (Moore County)
- Glass Doctor – 02/25/2025 (Moore County)
- Comfort Services Inc. – 02/25/2025 (Moore County)
- John Coles Plumbing -2/25/2025 (Moore County)
- Popes Electric Services – 02/25/2025 (Moore County)
- Manning Corporation – 02/26/2025 (Moore County)



NEXT MEETING SAVE THE DATE

Next MCWDB Meeting: Tuesday, July 8th 2025
Location: Cumberland County, North Carolina
Meeting Location TBD



Contact Us for More Information:

Cumberland County NCWorks Career Center: 910-912-2400
Harnett County NCWorks Career Center: 910-893-2191
Moore County NCWorks Career Center: 910-944-7697
Sampson County NCWorks Career Center: 910-592-5756
Montgomery County NCWorks Career Center: 910-898-9669



**MID-CAROLINA
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