

MID-CAROLINA INSIGHTS


QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



A proud partner of the
americanjobcenter[®]
network

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

- **County Spotlights**
-  **A Hero Comes Home — A Community Honors Mess Attendant 3rd Class Neil Daniel Frye**
- **National Apprenticeship Day**
- **Women Warriors Initiative: Empowering Women Veterans**

M
C
W
D
B

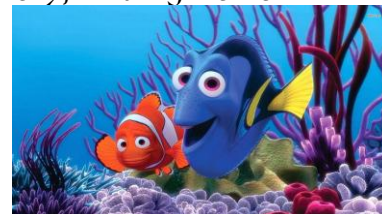
INSPIRATION CORNER

"Investing in workforce development is not just about filling jobs; it's about empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and building a resilient economy for the future." — Unknown

The only way to do great work is to love what you do.
~ Steve Jobs

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." ~ William James

"Just keep swimming!" ~ Dory, Finding Nemo



Sampson Spotlight



Sampson County NCWorks Career Center: Driving Employer Success in April 2025

The Sampson County NCWorks Career Center continued its impactful work in April 2025, as detailed in the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board (MCWDB) Center Report for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Focused on strengthening the local economy, the center provided critical support to employers, connecting them with resources and talent to meet their workforce needs.

Throughout the month, the center's dedicated staff assisted numerous employers with registering on NCWorks Online, North Carolina's premier platform for workforce solutions. This free service allows businesses to post job openings, search for qualified candidates, and access valuable labor market insights. Beyond registration, the center delivered a range of staff-assisted services, including job applicant screening, crafting effective job descriptions, and providing guidance on recruitment strategies. These tailored services are designed to streamline hiring processes and ensure employers find the right talent to drive their success.

Additionally, the center actively posted internal job orders on NCWorks Online, creating direct pathways for local job seekers to connect with employment opportunities in Sampson County. By facilitating these connections, the center not only supports businesses in filling critical roles but also empowers individuals to secure meaningful careers, fostering economic growth throughout the community.

The Sampson County NCWorks Career Center remains a vital resource for businesses of all sizes, offering no-cost tools and expertise to build stronger, more resilient workforces. For more information or to take advantage of these services, contact the center at 910-592-5756 or visit www.ncworks.gov.

More from Moore



Moore County Detention Center - Men's & Women's Recovery Group - 04/30/2025 - Virtual Workshop

Submitted by: Tim Ingram

NCWorks Career Center-Moore County staff had the pleasure of partnering with NC Peer Support Specialist, Stephanie Heck of FirstHealth, to present to the men's and women's recovery group at the Moore County Detention Center via Zoom.

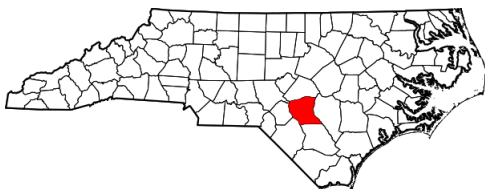
Staff was able to spend ample time reviewing career center services and implement the reentry initiative by providing the groups with various information and materials designed to assist with building a strategy for a successful transition.

Staff supplied rehabilitation, employment and educational resources while reviewing employability skills and tools that will be necessary in their search for gainful employment.

Staff reviewed Federal Bonding, WOTC, WIOA and ARPA programs. The groups were able to interact and receive answers to questions regarding training and employment.

Staff reminded each group of the many second chance employers looking for dependable workers regardless of their backgrounds and reminded them to visit their local NCWorks Career Center after release.

Call for Cumberland



NCWorks Career Center: April 2025 Professional Development Highlights

The NCWorks Career Center in Cumberland County is committed to fostering continuous professional growth for its staff to better serve job seekers and employers. In April 2025, the center's team engaged in a range of professional development activities, enhancing their skills and community connections.

Online Training Initiatives

Throughout April, center staff completed essential online training courses to strengthen their expertise in critical areas:

- **Privacy: The Fair Information Practice Principles v2:** Equipped staff with best practices for handling sensitive information responsibly.
- **Cyber Security: 2025 Social Engineering Red Flags:** Enhanced awareness of modern cybersecurity threats and how to identify them.
- **Privacy: PII & Public Information Training:** Reinforced protocols for protecting personally identifiable information (PII) and managing public data.

These trainings ensure the team remains vigilant and informed, safeguarding client trust and operational integrity..

Annual Business Summit and Pitch Competition

On April 11, 2025, M. Field attended the Annual Business Summit and Pitch Competition, representing NCWorks and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program. The event brought together employers to showcase their businesses and deliver compelling pitches to potential customers and investors. Field's presence highlighted the center's commitment to connecting employers with skilled talent and supporting economic growth in the region.

Monthly Staff Meeting and Training

On April 25, 2025, from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM, the center held its monthly staff meeting and training session. The agenda focused on reinforcing workplace safety and customer service excellence:

- **General Safety Protocols:** Reviewed weather and fire safety procedures, ensuring new staff were fully informed and all team members were refreshed on critical protocols.
- **Customer Service Essentials:** Reemphasized best practices to maintain high-quality, client-centered service delivery.

This session strengthened the team's preparedness and commitment to creating a safe, welcoming environment for all clients.

The NCWorks Career Center's dedication to professional development in April 2025 reflects its mission to empower staff with the knowledge and tools needed to drive impactful workforce solutions for the Cumberland County community.

What's Up Harnett



Harnett County NCWorks Career Center: May 2025 Individual Services Snapshot

In May 2025, the NCWorks Career Center in Harnett County continued its mission to support individuals on their path to employment through personalized workforce services.

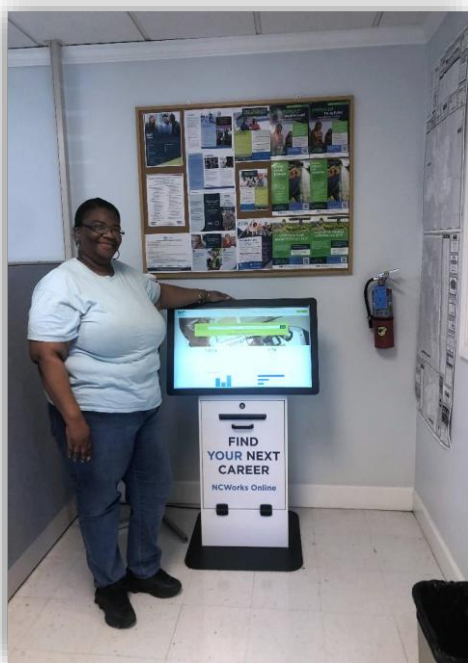
During the month, the Center:

- **Served 46 individuals** through direct, in-office engagement
- Delivered **36 staff-assisted services**, including résumé building, career guidance, and job search support
- **Referred 64 individuals** to active job postings on NCWorks Online

These numbers reflect the Center's hands-on approach to workforce development—ensuring every jobseeker who walks through the door receives guidance tailored to their needs and goals. The 64 referrals to job orders show strong alignment with local hiring activity and a focus on immediate, actionable employment connections.

While only **one employer** was directly served in May, the quality of that interaction underscores NCWorks' commitment to building strategic partnerships that benefit both businesses and jobseekers in Harnett County.

As always, the Center remains a vital hub for those seeking to improve their employment prospects—and a dedicated partner in strengthening the local workforce.



A Story of Determination and Second Chances– Beverly Elliott

After relocating to North Carolina from Virginia, Beverly Elliott visited the NCWorks Career Center in Sampson County in search of employment. During the month of April 2025, she was provided with an array of job readiness/reentry services including resume preparation and job interview coaching. Through these efforts, Beverly was referred to and was hired as a Shelter Relief Staff at U Care, Inc. Her responsibilities include completing intake packets and supporting clients in crisis – an important and meaningful role.

While still seeking additional income, Beverly returned to the Sampson County NCWorks Career Center where Career Advisor, Tramaine Orellana, worked diligently with her to help her secure another job opportunity. As a result, she was hired in April as a cook/cashier at the Ready Mart in Sampson County, further strengthening and enhancing her employment foundation.

Harnett County Success

Justin Valdina

Justin came into the Harnett County Career Center on 04/17/2025 seeking assistance with WIOA Training Services. He enrolled into the WIOA Adult Program on 04/17/2025 and enrolled into the CDL Class A Commercial Truck Driver Training Program at Carolina Trucking Academy (CTA) on 04/28/2025. Justin successfully completed his training on 05/29/2025 and received his CDL Class A Commercial Driver's License. Upon successful completion of his CDL Class A Training, Justin was offered Full-time employment with Western Trucking Company, as a Heavy Tractor-Trailer Truck Driver, in Richmond, Virginia with an annual salary of \$50,000.00.

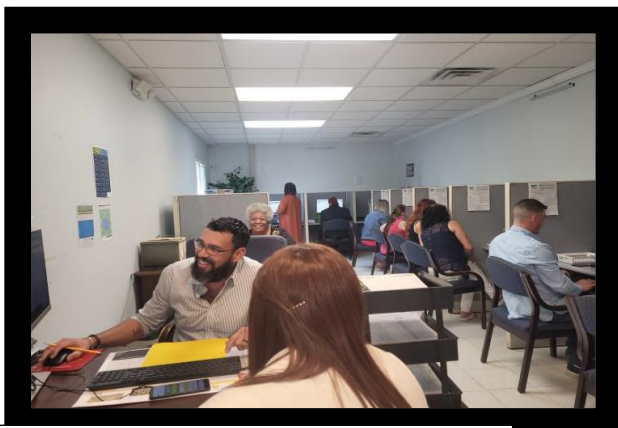


Sherman Stover

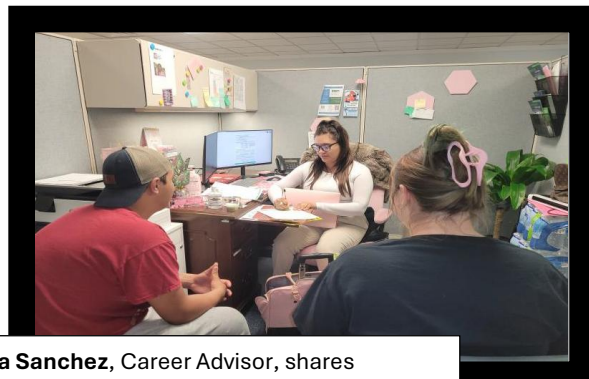
Sherman, a Veteran and recently Retired United States Army Military Commissioned Officer, sought WIOA assistance while transitioning from the military. He enrolled into the WIOA Dislocated Worker Program on 12/31/2024 seeking assistance with Training Services. On 03/05/2025, Sherman enrolled into the Logistics and Distribution Management Training offered at FTCC that is affiliated with the Transition Tech Military Program. He successfully completed his Logistics and Distribution Management Training on 03/05/2025. Upon successful completion of his Occupational Skills Training, Sherman obtained Full-time Employment with Lockheed Martin at Fort Bragg, North Carolina on 05/19/2025 as a Military Operations Analyst with a starting annual salary of \$92,000.00 and full benefits.

Sampson County NCWorks Career Center April 2025

“Second Chance” Event – April 16, 2025



Career Advisor, **Josue Pacheco**, provides WIOA Title III employment services and job referrals to a participant at the April “Second Chance” Event.



Cecilia Sanchez, Career Advisor, shares information with reentry customers regarding services offered by Southeast Non-Profit Housing Inc.

From left to right: **Karely Habrego**, Telamon Housing Advisor, **Sandra Webster**, Center Manager, and **Veronica Sanchez-Lopez**, Telamon Career Coach, reviews the types of services to provide a customer.

Mary Owens, Sampson Community College Career Resource Center Advisor, assist an individual in updating their NCWorks Online profile.



SAMPSON COUNTY



Legal Aid of North Carolina appreciates the opportunity to come and speak with the community about Legal Aid of NC and their services during our “Second Chance” event. On April 16, 2025, from 10am – 12pm, Legal Aid met with 13 individuals who were interested in their services. Legal Aid was also able to do intake and open expunctions and/or driver’s license restoration files for every person they spoke with. They opened 21 files! Legal Aid will now evaluate each individual’s circumstances to determine what they may be able to assist them with.

HARNETT COUNTY RESOURCE FAIR APRIL 30, 2025



NCWorks Career Center-Harnett County held a Multi-Employer & Resource Fair on April 30, 2025 from 2pm to 6pm for all jobseekers to meet employers and learn about the available resources in Harnett County. We had a total of 46 job seekers attending and a total of 18 employer's as well as resource agencies in attendance. Each jobseeker was able to visit each representative table and leave with a complimentary cheesecake that was donated by the Harnett County Food Pantry.

SUCCESS STORY FOR HARNETT

Brittany Armstrong

Brittany, a Single Parent of three (3) children under the age of 18 years old, enrolled into the WIOA Dislocated Worker Program on 06/06/2024, seeking assistance with Occupational Skills Training Services in the Business Administration Career Field. Brittany enrolled into her training at FTCC during the 2024 Fall Semester on 08/19/2024. By maintaining over a 3.5 GPA, Brittany made the Dean's List. Once again during the 2025 Spring Semester, Brittany maintained over a 3.5 GPA and made the Dean's List again making it two (2) consecutive years she attained this Mark of Excellence. Brittany's dedication, school performance, and strong work ethics exemplifies Brittany's commitment to excellence and reflects her enthusiasm for learning.



A Hero Comes Home — A Community Honors Mess Attendant 3rd Class Neil Daniel Frye

Submitted by: Tremictrus Fairley

On April 3rd, 2025, the town of Vass, North Carolina, came together in a powerful, long-overdue tribute to one of its own. Mess Attendant 3rd Class Neil Daniel Frye, a young Black sailor who perished aboard the USS *West Virginia* during the attack on Pearl Harbor, was finally laid to rest on what would have been his 104th birthday.

The day began with a moving homegoing service at Frye's Free Will Baptist Church. The sanctuary was filled with reverence, patriotism, and profound gratitude. Veterans, community members, and dignitaries packed the pews to honor a life cut short but never forgotten.

Among those present was Tremictrus Fairley, U.S. Air Force Veteran and Veterans Employment Consultant II with Moore County NCWorks. In her words: "It wasn't just about closure, it was about restoring dignity to a young man who gave his all-in service to a country that didn't fully honor him in life, but surely did in death."

The ceremony then transitioned to Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery, where Frye was buried with full military honors. The air was still as Taps played and a rifle salute rang out across the cemetery.

The turnout was remarkable. Veterans from all branches stood shoulder to shoulder, including representatives from veteran motorcycle clubs like the Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club, forming a powerful, roaring escort that carried Frye to his final resting place. Their presence symbolized the unbreakable bond of the military community - one that stretches across decades and deployments.

Jocelyn Mitnaul Mallette, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), gave stirring remarks and personally presented Frye's family with a folded American flag and plaques commemorating his bravery and service. Secretary Mallette, herself a third-generation service member and Air Force veteran, emphasized the importance of honoring forgotten heroes and making sure their stories are told for generations to come.

Also in attendance was Victor Glover, Regional Operations Director for the South Central Prosperity Zone, along with veteran staff from the Cumberland County NCWorks Career Center. Their presence underscored the commitment from both the state and local workforce systems to support and uplift the veteran community - not just through employment, but through remembrance.

Frye was only 20 years old when he was killed in the surprise attack on December 7, 1941. He served in the Navy's segregated Messman Branch, a role designated for Black, Asian, and foreign-national sailors. During the attack, the USS *West Virginia* was struck by multiple torpedoes and bombs. Despite heroic efforts by the crew to save the ship, 106 sailors, including Frye, were lost.

After the war, Frye's remains were mistakenly buried as "unknown" at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. It wasn't until 2024 that mitochondrial DNA testing and forensic research led to the positive identification of his remains. His name, once etched into the Walls of the Missing, now bears a rosette, indicating that he has been found and returned.

Frye's military awards include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Combat Action Ribbon, American Defense Service Medal, and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, a powerful collection of honors for a man who died serving a country that was still learning how to honor his humanity.

As the last notes of Taps faded into the breeze and the final salute was given, the crowd stood in collective silence with one truth that rang clear: North Carolina remembers its heroes. And, thanks to his family and a community of grateful veterans and citizens - Neil Daniel Frye will never be forgotten.

Autism Awareness & Acceptance Month – April 2025

NCWorks Career Center-Moore County recognized Autism Awareness & Acceptance Month by bringing awareness and understanding of neurodiversity individuals and celebrating Kayla Ingram, daughter of Timothy and Megan Ingram for her irresistible uniqueness. Kayla (known by staff as one of the underage CEO's of NCWorks Career Center-Moore County loves bubbles, making slime, singing and shopping. The staff and a customer joined Kayla bubble blowing by celebrating her. A special thank you to Kayla for stopping by and sharing her happiness and laughter with the staff. Employing individuals with autism promotes workplace diversity and inclusivity, which can enhance creativity and problem-solving by bring different perspectives. Embracing neurodiversity, workplaces can benefit from a richer, more varied workforce and contribute positively to the broader community.





The 2025 NCETA Spring Conference

Submitted by: Tremictrus Fairley

The 2025 NCETA Spring Conference, held in Wrightsville Beach, brought together workforce professionals, community partners, and educators from across North Carolina for three days of learning, collaboration, and forward-thinking strategy. With the theme “*Charting a New Course: Navigating the Sea*

of Change,” the event offered timely solutions for addressing today’s workforce. Several key workshops stood out for equipping attendees with actionable tools and fresh perspectives to better serve diverse jobseekers across the state.

Promising Practices for Serving Veterans

Presented by *Gerard Ball* and *Gary Jacobs*, this session focused on practical methods for supporting veterans while offering strategies that could be applied more broadly to any client navigating a complex employment landscape. Topics included strengthening employer partnerships, addressing hidden barriers, and tailoring services to the lived experience of each individual. Attendees gained insight into building trust, increasing engagement, and crafting customized employment pathways.

NCWorks Online

This session explored the powerful tools within NCWorks Online to enhance job readiness and employment outcomes for clients from all backgrounds. The session highlighted how staff can leverage the platform’s full potential—from job matching and application tracking to digital resume-building tools. The practical demonstrations gave staff immediate takeaways to improve client support through technology.

Navigating the Reentry Space and Process

Facilitated by *Paul Stayert*, this workshop examined how to best support justice-involved individuals as they work toward sustainable employment. Attendees explored how early engagement, barrier identification, and coordinated community resources can dramatically improve outcomes. Though focused on reentry, the tools and service strategies shared were also applicable to civilians facing employment gaps or life transitions. The session underscored the importance of trauma-informed, goal-oriented service delivery that supports long-term success; not just job placement.

Translating Military Experience into Civilian Career Success

This dynamic session focused on helping transitioning service members and veterans present their military experience in ways that resonate with civilian employers. Participants learned how to interpret military positions, extract transferable skills, and translate complex military language into civilian-friendly résumés and interview responses. The workshop also offered universal takeaways for helping any jobseeker identify and communicate the value of their past experience - military or not - within the context of a competitive job market.

Each of these sessions reinforced that effective workforce development is not one-size-fits-all. Staff must be equipped to meet people where they are - with the right tools, mindset, and partnerships. The NCETA Spring Conference was a timely reminder that with thoughtful planning and compassionate support, we can help all jobseekers navigate the changing tides of today’s labor market.

Highlights from NCWorks Career Center Moore County

Spring Manufacturers Breakfast Builds Bridges in Moore County

On April 9, 2025, the Moore County Workforce Development Collaborative Partnership (WDCP) hosted its Spring Manufacturers Breakfast at Sandhills Community College's Clement Dining Room in Pinehurst. This engaging event brought together local manufacturers, service providers, educators, and elected officials to explore the theme, *"Maximizing Community College Partnership and Services."*

Attendees learned about hands-on technical training programs, industry-recognized certifications, and customized workforce solutions available through Sandhills Community College. The breakfast served as a powerful networking platform, encouraging collaboration among manufacturing leaders, NCWorks Career Center–Moore County, the Moore County Chamber of Commerce, Moore County Schools, the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board, and the Moore County Economic Development Partnership.

Expanding Access to Services in the Community

Jessica Thomas, Career Advisor II, continued NCWorks' commitment to community outreach by providing job readiness and employment services at the Life Care Pregnancy Center on April 15, 2025. She also met with survivors at the Friend to Friend Domestic Violence Shelter on April 1 and 15, connecting them with NCWorks resources to support their journey toward independence and self-sufficiency.

Connecting with Partners Across Moore County

On April 16, NCWorks Career Center–Moore County hosted its virtual Management, Leadership, and Partners Meeting. Agency representatives shared upcoming events and resources, while economic development updates were presented by Darryn Burich (Moore County Economic Development Partnership), Victor Glover (Regional Operational Director), and Linda Parson (Moore County Chamber of Commerce).

Ongoing Onsite Outreach Brings Services to Residents

In April, NCWorks continued to deliver job search assistance through onsite outreach at the following locations:

- **Montgomery County Health Department** – April 2 & 30
- **Sandhills Community Action Program** – April 14
- **Moore County Child Support** – April 8
- **Moore County DSS** – April 8
- **Sandhills Community College Veteran Services** – April 4 & 17 (with Tremictrus Shaw-Fairley)

Engagement & Representation in Workforce Events

NCWorks staff and leadership remained actively involved throughout April:

- Regina Smalls attended the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board Meeting at Sandhills Community College (April 1), the U.S. Cellular Rapid Response Meeting (April 16), the Center Managers Monthly Meeting (April 25), and the Mid-Carolina Business Services Meeting in Cumberland County (April 25).
- Tim Ingram participated in the Moore County Chamber of Commerce New Member Social on April 2.
- Regina Smalls also represented NCWorks at the Healthcare Accelerator Workshop at Central Carolina Community College on April 30.

Looking Ahead

Through robust outreach, strong partnerships, and active participation in community initiatives, NCWorks Career Center–Moore County continues to build a workforce that is skilled, connected, and empowered for the future.



Sandhills Community College Spring Career Fair – 04/17/2025:

NCWorks Career Center-Moore County partnered with Sandhills Community College to assist with their 2025 Spring Career Fair held in the Sandhills Community College gymnasium in Dempsey Hall on 04/17/2025. The event gave college students and the general public a chance to meet face to face with various employers seeking to fill positions within healthcare, hospitality, engineering, and more. NCWorks Career Center-Moore County staff assisted Sandhills Community College Career Center with inviting employers to attend while also participating and sharing NCWorks services with job seekers and students.

Montgomery County Workforce Center April 2025 at a Glance

The NCWorks Career Center in Montgomery County continued its strong service delivery in April 2025, helping connect jobseekers and employers across the region.

During the month, the Center assisted **7 local employers**, providing direct support to address workforce needs and connect with qualified talent. In addition, the Center delivered **250 staff-assisted services** to jobseekers, demonstrating ongoing commitment to personalized employment assistance, including résumé support, job search strategies, interview preparation, and career guidance.

These figures reflect NCWorks' consistent efforts to strengthen the local workforce and support Montgomery County's economic growth. Through continued collaboration with community partners and employers, the Career Center remains a vital resource for individuals striving to succeed in today's job market.



ARPA Small Business – Harnett County

Lawrence Aytman is a 15-year US Army military veteran who decided to transition to civilian life. He enrolled in the ARPA Small Business Work Based Learning Program in a Work Experience at The Veteran's Farm of North Carolina in Cameron.

Lawrence successfully completed his Work Experience on May 10, 2025. He was offered a position with the employer. He turned down the offer to move to Idaho and open his own farm on family property where he plans to utilize the skills learned during his Small Business Work Based Learning Experience.



Keyla Castillo was provided excellent customer service assistance at the Sampson County NCWorks Career Center by Career Advisors, **Asenet Gutierrez-Prieto**, and **Demetria Sconiers** during the month of January 2025. Keyla was referred on January 7, 2025, to our WIOA Title I Adult Program. She was eligible for the program and she to enrolled in the School of Dental Assisting in Fayetteville, NC. Keyla successfully completed the Dental Assistance I program, received her Dental Assistant Certificate on April 12, 2025. She obtained employment on April 14, 2025, with “The Teeth Doctors” located in Fayetteville, NC as a Dental Assistance I. Her beginning salary is \$17/hour.

National Apprenticeship Day

North Carolina recognizes National Apprenticeship Day on April 30th each year. In 2025, the state celebrated the 11th annual National Apprenticeship Day. This day is a national celebration highlighting the benefits of registered apprenticeship programs, which combine on-the-job training with classroom learning to develop skilled workers.

In celebration of National Apprenticeship Day, on April 30th, Sampson Community College hosted a “Lunch and Learn” informative session that focused on explaining and clarifying work-based learning, internships, and apprenticeships, and how these programs create a pipeline of skilled, motivated future employees.



(Pictured from left to right: **Cassandra Royal**, ApprenticeshipNC Consultant for the Economic Development Division – NC Community College System, **Donna B. Odom**, Work-Based Learning Coordinator for Sampson Community College, and **Sandra Webster**, Sampson County NCWorks Career Employment Services Manager).



Women Warriors Initiative: Empowering Women Veterans

On May 15, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM, Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist Beth Howell represented the NCWorks Fort Bragg & Cumberland County Career Center at a significant outreach event hosted by the Wounded Warrior Project's Women Warriors Initiative (WWI). This impactful gathering focused on understanding the unique needs and challenges faced by women veterans across the nation, with the goal of informing policy for the Wounded Warrior Project and North Carolina state efforts, as well as shaping tailored

program offerings for women veterans.

The event served as a dynamic platform for connecting women veterans with representatives from veteran service organizations and critical resources. It fostered a strong sense of community and collaboration among women warriors, federal and state officials, and local stakeholders. The diverse audience included approximately 34 women veterans, 6 individuals affiliated with veterans, and key representatives from organizations such as the Wounded Warrior Project, North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Moral Injury Support Network for Servicewomen, Veterans Bridge Home, Combat Sexual Assault, and the offices of Representatives David Rouzer and Richard Hudson—a total of 40 participants.

DVOP Beth Howell shared insights about the NCWorks Fort Bragg & Cumberland County Career Center's Veterans Program and Services, highlighting the resources available to support veterans' career and personal development. She also connected with eight veteran-focused resource organizations, each dedicated to advocating for the needs and rights of women veterans. These connections strengthened the network of support available to women warriors in North Carolina and beyond.



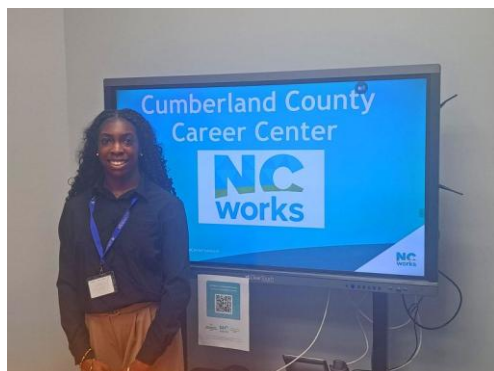
The Women Warriors Initiative outreach event was a powerful step toward addressing the distinct challenges faced by women veterans, ensuring their voices are heard, and building a more inclusive and supportive community for all who have served.

On May 15, 2025, R. Godsave represented the NCWorks Career Center at the Fayetteville Chamber Coffee held at Segra Stadium. The event brought together local employers, government officials, and nonprofits to discuss key community updates, including Police Week celebrations, a first 100 days report from Commissioner Kirk deViere, Fort Bragg updates from Garrison Commander Colonel Mixon, and details on the STARnetwork and the upcoming Career & Resource Expo 2025, set for July 18 at the Crown Expo Center. Godsave shared valuable information about Career Center services with several small businesses in attendance, fostering connections to support local workforce development.

Intern Spotlight:

Charisma Barrow

Charisma Barrow, a rising senior at Fayetteville State University pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Social Work, is making a meaningful impact as an intern at the Cumberland County NCWorks Career Center. Supporting the NCWorks NextGen Program, Charisma is dedicated to facilitating work-based learning experiences for local youth, helping them build essential skills and prepare for successful futures. Her passion for social work and commitment to empowering young people shine through in her valuable contributions to the program.



Cumberland County NCWorks Career Center Boosts Visibility with Facebook Page Revamp

The NCWorks Career Center in Cumberland County, Fayetteville, is enhancing its online presence, thanks to Andrew Dugger's efforts in rebranding the center's Facebook page. By updating the page name to reflect its official role, the center is now more accessible to job seekers and employers browsing social media. Over the past 28 days, the page has seen 88 views, reached 44 users, and gained three new followers with zero unfollows, showing steady growth in engagement. Short videos and reels are driving visibility, with consistent watch time and interaction. To maintain this momentum, the center manager is working to assign additional staff as page administrators. This team approach will ensure regular updates on hiring events, program details, and veteran-focused services, improving response times and daily visibility. With expanded admin roles, the page is set to become a robust extension of the center's in-person support, fostering stronger community outreach and keeping job seekers engaged between appointments.

Cumberland County NCWorks Success Stories: Transforming Lives Through Opportunity

JVSG Success Story Submitted by Beth Howell

During his visit about 9 months ago to our Fort Bragg NCWorks Career Center, Mr. Krystofer Baker courageously shared his concerns about supplementing his income while transitioning out of the military and awaiting a disability determination. I listened intently and assured him that I was devoted to supporting him during this pivotal moment. By introducing him to our veteran programs, I was able to ease his worries, showing him that he wouldn't have to navigate this journey alone. Together, we began crafting his resume, cover letter, and connections to vital service organizations, igniting a sense of hope and possibility.

With a background in Cybersecurity, Mr. Baker was eager to find a job that reflected his military expertise. I recommended he attend a resume workshop, and he embraced this opportunity by participating in the NCWorks Advanced Resume Workshop on Fort Bragg, NC. There, he gained essential strategies for tailoring his resume to stand out in the job market.

Our collaboration continued as I provided ongoing support and guidance whenever he reached out for advice on job postings or interview questions. In April 2025, Mr. Baker called with exhilarating news: he had received an offer to work as a Cybersecurity Specialist with Immersive Wisdom, starting on May 5, 2025, with a remarkable salary of \$75,000 per year. This achievement not only marked a new chapter in his career but also underscored the power of perseverance and support in making dreams a reality.

AD/ DW Success Story Submitted by Antonio Trawick

Mr. Donald Copenig came to the career center with interest of attending CDL Training at Transtech-Fayetteville through the WIOA program. Mr. Copenig had just moved back to Fayetteville from Charlotte and was currently unemployed and recently separated from his family. During intake, the participant made it clear that he was justice involved and wanted to become a truck driver to build generational wealth for his kids with some day potentially owning his own trucking company. After screening of the participant and determining his eligibility, I enrolled him in the WIOA program 27FEB25 with a start date for CDL Training at Transtech-Fayetteville 3MAR25. Participant successfully completed the CDL Training program at Transtech-Fayetteville 28MAR25. Mr. Copenig continuously stated that he was blessed and forever grateful of the opportunity presented to him and that it was a life changer. Mr. Copenig received his Commercial Drivers License 10APR25 and began working for Swift Transportation in Richmond, VA 14APR25. I reached out to the participant 20MAY25 via telephone and he stated he is really enjoying being on the road because he can make money, see new places and try new food. Upon his completion of the program, he has since referred 3 potential participants to our center to receive WIOA assistance. This is an example of the program being successful and a successful participant spreading the word of all the opportunities NCWorks Career Center-Cumberland County has available.

Celebrating Filipino Heritage at NCWorks: AAPI History Month Event

On May 23, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM, DVOP Beth Howell led a vibrant celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander History Month, joined by DVOP Tremayne Gilchrist, Hybrid Chester Lambert, and DVOP Andrew Dugger. The event honored the rich cultural heritage of the Filipino community, showcasing its traditions and contributions to the United States.

A representative from the Philippine-American community presented a detailed map of the Philippines, setting the stage for an immersive experience. Attendees enjoyed dynamic performances, including the “Salakot” Folk Dance of Hope, symbolizing resilience and unity, and the rhythmic “Tinikling” dance, performed with skillful precision using bamboo sticks. A Filipino Martial Arts demonstration added excitement, highlighting the depth of Filipino cultural heritage.

The event drew a diverse crowd of 38 participants, including DWS staff, the Veterans Team, and members of the Philippine-American Club of Fayetteville, including veterans, their spouses, and dependents. This gathering fostered community, reflection, and appreciation for the invaluable contributions of Filipinos to American history, celebrating cultural diversity with pride and unity.





NEXT MEETING SAVE THE DATE

Next MCWDB Meeting:	Tuesday, October 7, 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
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Creative Regional Solutions

**6205 Raeford Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304**

This newsletter is intended for informational purposes only. The content provided is based on available information at the time of creation and is subject to change without notice.