

MID-CAROLINA INSIGHTS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



MID-CAROLINA
Workforce Development Board



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

**Harnett County NCWorks Career
Center Staff Development Training
Strengthens Team Collaboration**

**Greater Fayetteville Chamber
Hosts Annual *State of the
Community Luncheon***

**Cumberland County NCWorks
Participates in U.S. Army 250th
Birthday Celebration**

***A Story of Encouragement –
Kenyatta C.***

Submitted by: Felicia Reives – Career
Advisor 1

Multi-State Career Expo

**Helping Transitioning Military
Personnel Prepare for Civilian
Careers**

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INSPIRATION CORNER

- “Workforce development is not just about filling jobs—it’s about unlocking potential and building stronger communities.”
- “Every skill learned is a step toward opportunity, confidence, and independence.”
- “When we invest in people, we invest in the future of our region.”
- “Stronger partnerships create stronger pathways to success.”
- “Collaboration is the bridge between talent and opportunity.”

Sampson Spotlight



Collins Delaine – A “Second Chance” at Work

Collins Delaine received reentry initiative services from the NCWorks Career Center in Sampson County during the months of July and August of 2025. With determination and a strong work ethic, Mr. Delaine actively engaged with NCWorks staff, receiving job search assistance and interview tips tailored to help him successfully reenter the workforce. Mr. Delaine secured employment with UPS and Canvass, which is based in Raleigh, NC. He was working at the NC State Campus with a rate of pay of \$24.00 per hour. Unfortunately, he was later laid off from both Canvass and UPS.

However, his persistence never wavered. On August 4, Mr. Delaine was hired by Smithfield Foods in Tar Heel, NC — a testament to his resilience, dedication, and the support provided by the Sampson County NCWorks Career Center staff. He exemplifies how hard work, commitment, and access to the right resources can lead to successful reintegration and long-term employment. His story is a powerful reminder of the impact of second chances.



More from Moore



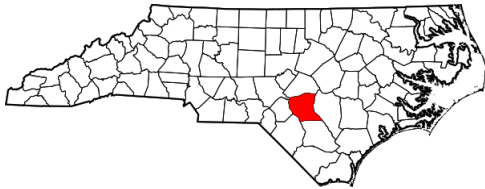
Moore Business Services Outreach

Throughout August, the Business Services Team engaged with several local employers and community partners to introduce **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) business service opportunities** and strengthen workforce connections across the region.

- **August 1, 2025 - Blue Shield Company Police**
Sharryn Levert and Torris Ferguson met with the company's owner to share available WIOA business services and resources.
- **August 15, 2025 (10:00 - 11:00 a.m.) - Brock Cabinets**
Sharryn Levert and Meaghan Field met with the office manager at the Fayetteville location to introduce WIOA business service opportunities.
- **August 15, 2025 (12:00 - 1:00 p.m.) - Cape Fear Valley Health - Human Resources**
The team met with the Director of Human Resources to present WIOA business services and discuss workforce needs.
- **August 19, 2025 - House of Braids and Wigs**
Sharryn Levert, Meaghan Field, and Lee Howell Jr. met with the business owner to share WIOA services and explore partnership opportunities.
- **August 25, 2025 - Lost Voices Empire**
The team met with the owner and founder of the organization to introduce WIOA business services.
- **August 27, 2025 - Moore County Chamber of Commerce**
Sharryn Levert and the Cumberland and Moore County Business Services Teams met with Chamber Director **Linda Parsons** to discuss the workforce needs of Moore County and identify areas of support.

These outreach efforts reflect the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board's ongoing commitment to building strong employer partnerships and expanding opportunities for both businesses and job seekers in the region.

Call for Cumberland



Cumberland County Professional Development: Strengthening Skills and Service

The Cumberland County NCWorks Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) team launched **Program Year 2025** with a strong focus on professional development and training. Several sessions were held in August to ensure staff and partners are fully prepared to deliver high-quality services to the region.

On **August 21, 2025**, the WIOA team participated in the **PY25 Program Year Kickoff Training** alongside the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board. This session highlighted program updates, upcoming initiatives, and key strategies for the year ahead.

The following day, **August 22, 2025**, members of the Business Solutions Team received **Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) training** provided by **Annie Gomez from the NC Department of Commerce**. This training equipped staff with updated knowledge and tools to better assist businesses in accessing valuable hiring incentives.

Also on August 22, Career Center staff gathered for a **career center meeting and training** session. Topics included several Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) designed to streamline operations and improve customer service, such as:

- Proper voicemail procedures
- Running the switchboard and transferring calls
- Completing Workforce Professional (WP) registrations
- Referral-to-Service Provider process

During the meeting, two staff members were recognized for their service milestones:

- **Toya Carroll**, celebrating **1 year** with the agency
- **Katrina Davis**, celebrating **5 years** with the agency

These trainings and recognitions reflect the Mid-Carolina team's commitment to continuous learning, professional growth, and quality service to the communities we serve.

What's Up Harnett



Harnett County NCWorks Career Center Staff Development Training Strengthens Team Collaboration

The Harnett County Workforce Development team recently participated in a **Staff Development Training** session led by **Kittrane Saunders of NC Cooperative Extension**. The training focused on enhancing self-awareness, improving communication, and strengthening team dynamics.

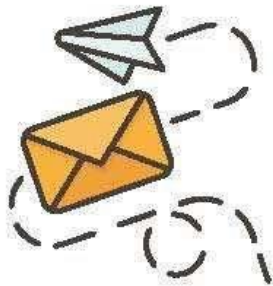
Key areas of the training included:

- **Self-Awareness** – Understanding natural strengths and weaknesses.
- **Team Dynamics** – Exploring how different communication styles can improve collaboration across workplaces, sports, and community groups.
- **Improved Relationships** – Recognizing personality traits to build stronger personal and professional connections.
- **Practical Tips** – Applying strategies to enhance teamwork and foster positive relationships.

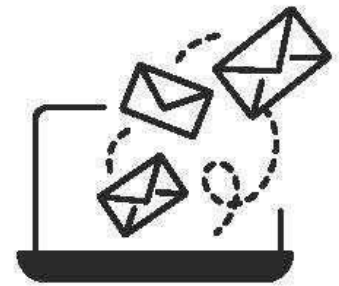
This training provided valuable insight and tools to help staff build stronger connections, work more effectively together, and continue delivering quality service to the communities we serve.



A proud partner of the
AmericanJobCenter®
network



Email Etiquette



Hope on and join us October 14, 2025 @ 10 am
for a virtual workshop on email etiquette. We will
be reviewing the Do's and Don'ts in email writing
and more!!

**Call or email Sharryn Levert:
sharryn.levert@ncworks.gov or call 910-912-2414, to
register and receive the Meeting Link!!**



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The Stevens Amendment— www.mccog.org— <https://mccog.org/the-stevens-amendment.asp>

Greater Fayetteville Chamber Hosts Annual *State of the Community Luncheon*

The Greater Fayetteville Chamber held its annual *State of the Community* luncheon on **Friday, August 29**, at the Crown Complex Expo Center.

This premier gathering brought together business leaders, elected officials, and community partners for a dynamic discussion on the challenges and opportunities shaping our region. Attendees had the opportunity to network with peers, connect with key decision-makers, and gain valuable insights to support ongoing initiatives.



Last year's event drew a record-breaking crowd of more than 600 participants, and this year's program built on that momentum.

The impressive speaker lineup featured:

- **Mayor Mitch Colvin**, City of Fayetteville
- **Mike Nagowski**, CEO, Cape Fear Valley Health
- **Dr. Marvin Connelly**, Superintendent, Cumberland County Schools
- **Megan Gerber**, President, Longleaf Pines Realtors
- **Robert Van Geons**, President & CEO, Fayetteville Cumberland Economic Development Corporation
- **Christopher Chung**, CEO, Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

Fayetteville, the largest city in Cumberland County, continues to demonstrate its strength as a hub of growth, innovation, and community collaboration. Recent investments, such as the \$40 million baseball stadium, have spurred additional development across the county. Current data reinforces this progress, with Cumberland County ranking **eighth in North Carolina** for business growth—reporting a 16.46% increase in new businesses, 5.40 building permits per 1,000 homes, and continued gains in gross domestic product.

Several members of the **Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Team, DWS, and Service Providers** attended the luncheon, joining community partners in the conversations that will help shape the future of Cumberland County and the greater Fayetteville region.

Connecting Job Seekers and Employers at Career Expo

On **July 18, 2025**, Workforce Development staff members **K. Davis, S. Levert, S. Franklin, and T. Lambert** participated in the **Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce Career Expo** at the Crown Complex.

The event, held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., served as a community-wide hiring fair bringing together a diverse range of employers and eager job seekers. Designed to bridge the gap between local talent and Chamber businesses, the expo provided valuable opportunities for networking, career exploration, and employment connections—all under one roof.



Cumberland County NCWorks Participates in U.S. Army 250th Birthday Celebration

On **June 10, 2025**, the NCWorks Fort Bragg and Cumberland County Career Center team proudly represented the Veterans Program and Services during the **U.S. Army's 250th Birthday Celebration**. The event took place at **Fort Bragg**, home to the XVIII Airborne Corps and U.S. Army Special Operations Command, and honored 250 years of Army service since its founding on June 14, 1775.

In attendance from NCWorks were **CP (Hybrid) Chester Lambert, DVOP Beth Howell, DVOP Tremayne Gilchrist, DVOP Andrew Dugger, CP (Hybrid) Tremictrus Fairly, and LVER Dwight Butler**, who led the group. Their participation demonstrated the organization's commitment to supporting service members, veterans, and military families.

The celebration drew **more than 3,000 attendees**, including transitioning service members, veterans, retirees, active-duty personnel, military and veteran spouses, and dependents. Commemorative activities recognized the bravery, sacrifice, and legacy of the Army under the banner of its motto, *"This We'll Defend."*

Notable figures at the event included **Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth**, who engaged directly with troops and families, and **WWE superstar Cody Rhodes**, who met with military personnel. **President Donald Trump** inaugurated the event with a military readiness demonstration featuring a simulated missile strike, helicopter insertions, and tactical building-raid exercises before delivering his keynote address.

Throughout the day, the **NCWorks Veterans Team** connected with participants, sharing information on resources, employment services, and transition support available through Veterans Programs. Their presence highlighted NCWorks' ongoing dedication to empowering North Carolina's military-affiliated communities through career assistance and workforce development services.





Secretary of Commerce Visits NCWorks Career Center-Moore County

On June 4, 2025, the NCWorks Career Center-Moore County welcomed Secretary of Commerce Lee Lilley and his aide for a site visit.

Career Center Manager Regina Smalls, along with her staff, hosted the visit and was joined by Samantha Wullenwaber, Executive Director of the Mid-Carolina Regional Council. Also in attendance were Linda Parsons, President & CEO of the Moore County Chamber of Commerce, and Edward Priest, Sr. Director of Business Development for Sierra Nevada Corporation of Southern Pines.

During the visit, Secretary Lilley shared insights on current and future workforce initiatives and provided the opportunity for the Career Center team and partners to highlight their experiences, goals, and ongoing initiatives in Moore County.



Sandhills/Moore Coalition of Human Care –

Tim Ingram – Career Advisor II provided job seekers services to the clients the utilize Sandhills/Moore Coalitions weekly. Clients are required to take part in job search in order to obtain services from the coalition.

The Coalition's mission is to *"alleviate hunger and financial strains of struggling households in Moore County."*

Services are made possible through generous community backing, the support of dedicated volunteers, and sales at The Coalition Resale Shops.

Montgomery County NCWorks to Support Reentry Efforts

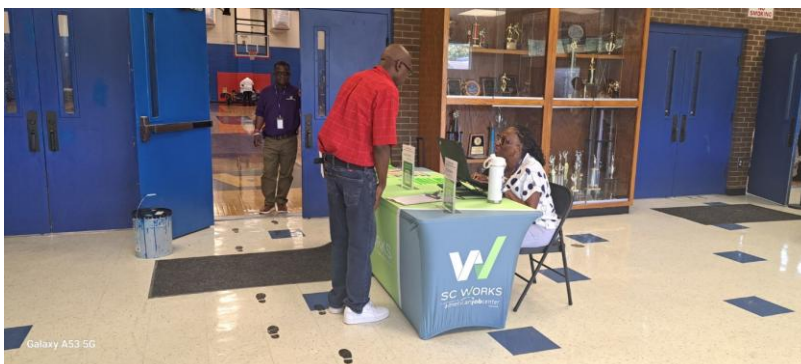
On **June 11, 2025**, **Tim Ingram**, staff member of Moore County NCWorks, met with **Captain Peterkin** of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department to discuss opportunities to support rehabilitation and reentry efforts at the Montgomery County Detention Center.

NCWorks staff are scheduled to meet with Captain Peterkin, detention center staff, and peer support specialists at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office in Troy, NC. The meeting will include a presentation on **NCWorks Career Center services**, distribution of reentry literature and resources, and a discussion on **online enrollment for transitioning inmates**.

Staff will also highlight **employment opportunities** and **training programs** available for justice-involved individuals. The initiative aims to expand access to resources, support successful career transitions, and ultimately reduce recidivism in Montgomery County.

Multi-State Career Expo -

The NCWorks Career Center-Moore County, in collaboration with Scotland, Hoke, Cumberland, Richmond County and South Carolina NCWorks co-host the Sharing Borders /Sharing Jobs Career Expo held at the Scotland High School in Laurinburg, NC on Saturday, June 28, 2025. The event was successful with 102 job seekers and 24 employers attending the Multi-State Career Expo.





Sampson County Community Resource/Career Fair

The Sampson County NCWorks Community Resource/Career Fair was held on Thursday, July 10, 2025, from 10:00am - 2:00pm at the Bellamy Recreation Center in Clinton, NC.

The event provided an excellent opportunity for job seekers to link with companies aligned with their career goals along with promising contacts and referrals. Employers and agencies made valuable connections and attendees learned more about exciting career opportunities.

Thanks to all who attended and participated.

Pictured from left to right: Ladaja Brown, NextGen Case Manager, Meaghan Field, WIOA Business Services Consultant, Josue Pacheco, Career Employment Services Coordinator, and Chester "Tony" Lambert, Consolidated Veteran Employment Consultant.

My Future So Bright.....

The *My Future So Bright* Summer Work Program, overseen by the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board, is an initiative designed to equip youth with essential career skills and real-world work experience. Targeting participants between the ages of 14 and 21, the program engages youth through workshops, hands-on training, and mentoring sessions. Its primary objective is to foster employability skills, introduce diverse career pathways, and prepare participants for future workforce opportunities.

A total of 84 participants successfully completed the 2025 cohort and received Certificates of Achievement. The cohort integrated an innovative, team-based internship model that placed student teams in problem-solving environments where they collaborated to address real business challenges presented by local small businesses.

Key partnerships with Cumberland County Schools, District C, local businesses, and community organizations provided invaluable networking opportunities and industry exposure for participants.

The program achieved strong outcomes, with 90% of participants reporting improved job readiness skills and 70% expressing increased interest in pursuing further education and training opportunities. Participant feedback affirmed the program's relevance, structure, and lasting community impact.

Financial support from the City of Fayetteville, combined with federal funding, enabled the program to expand its reach; serving more participants, offering comprehensive youth employment and supportive services, and culminating in a formal graduation ceremony.



New Cumberland County NCWorks Partner -



The Cumberland County NCWorks Career Center welcomed a new partner in July. Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist Inc (VRSI)! VRSI is a dedicated team of four members, including one Lead Employment Specialist and three Employment Specialists, committed to supporting veterans in need.

What They Offer

Financial Assistance: Bus passes, work clothing, work shoes, interview clothing, equipment or tools, and prepaid gas/food cards.

Services: Job search assistance, certification fees, vocational development, job retention, and Microsoft Office self-paced training.

Why They Do This:

As a veteran-owned organization, they provide free services to veterans who may qualify for the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP) Grant. They serve multiple counties, including Bladen, Brunswick, Chatham, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Johnston, Lee, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, and Scotland.

Helping Transitioning Military Personnel Prepare for Civilian Careers

This summer, the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development team continued its strong support for transitioning service members through outreach efforts at **NCWorks Fort Bragg** in collaboration with the **Career Skills Bridge (CSP) Program**.

On **July 10, 2025**, DVOP Specialist **Beth Howell** conducted an outreach session for approximately **36 service members** preparing to leave the military. The presentation introduced participants to the many resources available through NCWorks and within Cumberland County, with a focus on employment and career readiness services. Key topics included resume development, effective job search strategies, interview preparation, professional attire, and networking techniques. The session also highlighted opportunities available through accredited internships and apprenticeships, designed to provide hands-on experience and career pathways.

A second outreach session followed on **August 21, 2025**, serving an audience of approximately **44 transitioning military members**. Similar in scope, this event provided additional guidance on state and local workforce programs, further equipping participants with the tools and knowledge to successfully navigate their transition into civilian careers.

Together, these sessions reflect an ongoing commitment to ensuring that service members entering the civilian workforce have access to the training, resources, and support they need to thrive. By connecting military personnel with NCWorks services, the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development team continues to strengthen both the regional talent pipeline and the communities it serves.



Cumberland County NCWorks Career Center Talent Development: *Return to Jewelry Sales*



Submitted by: Toya Carroll

Background Information

In May 2025, Dulcie Carter visited the NC Works-Cumberland County Career Center for an initial Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA). With over 10 years of experience in jewelry sales, including 9 years as a Jewelry Consultant at Zales, Dulcie was eager to return to the jewelry industry. She also possessed strong administrative and sales skills, with proficiency in Microsoft Office and effective communication.

The Journey

During the initial RESEA, Career Advisor Toya Carroll reviewed and revised Dulcie's resume and helped her set up a virtual recruiter to streamline her job search. Dulcie expressed her desire to return to jewelry sales or leverage her administrative experience in a related role.

In June 2025, Dulcie had a follow-up RESEA session with Toya to discuss her job search progress and potential referrals. During this session, Toya provided Dulcie with a lead for a Jewelry Sales Associate position at Belk in Cross Creek Mall, Fayetteville, NC. Encouraged by this opportunity, Dulcie applied for the position and soon reported that she had an interview scheduled with Belk.

The Outcome

In July 2025, Dulcie successfully secured and accepted the position of Jewelry Sales Associate at Belk, Inc. in Fayetteville, NC. Her start date was set for July 12, 2025. Dulcie's extensive experience in jewelry sales, coupled with her strong administrative skills, made her an ideal candidate for the role.

New Beginnings

Dulcie's action and determination, combined with the support and guidance from her Career Advisor, Toya Carroll, played a crucial role in her successful transition back into the jewelry industry. Just one week into her new job, Dulcie is already settling in well and making valuable contributions to her team at Belk.

Conclusion

Dulcie's success story highlights the importance of perseverance and the value of having a supportive network. With the help of the NC Works-Cumberland County Career Center and the dedicated efforts of Career Advisor Toya Carroll, Dulcie was able to navigate her job search effectively and secure a position that aligns with her previous experience and career goals. Her journey serves as an inspiration to others, demonstrating that with the right support and mindset, new opportunities are always within reach.

**“Sometimes the greatest journey
is finding your way back to the work that
inspires you, reminding you why you loved it in
the first place.”**

Women Veterans' Fair Strengthens Career Pathways

Cumberland County's DVOP Specialist, Beth Howell recently led an impactful Women Veterans' Fair, working in collaboration with CODL Tremictrus Fairly and CODL Chester Lambert. The event specifically reached out to women veterans, retirees, transitioning service members, and their spouses, providing direct access to information about NCWorks Veterans Programs and additional support services tailored to this unique demographic.

The fair drew a total of 80 participants, including 55 organizations and employers alongside 25 veteran participants. Of the organizational representatives, 19 were veterans and 21 were veteran spouses, reflecting the strong connections between the veteran community and local businesses.

The event not only highlighted available career transition resources but also fostered a sense of community and support among attendees. By creating space for networking and information-sharing, the initiative strengthened pathways for women veterans and their families as they prepare for new career opportunities and future growth.



MOORE COUNTY NCWORKS CAREER CENTER ADULT/DW SUCCESS STORY

In his own words.....

Who: Larry Dockery
What: CDL Training
Where: Future Truckers of America
When: August 2025
Why: Occupational Skills Training



CDL Training and Challenges

My journey with the WIOA begun in July 2025. At the time I was coming out of a situation where I was driving Box Trucks for a company that really didn't have my best interest. However, it was a job and I've been in the trucking business for well over ten years from having my own company and truck to working for someone else. Never had my CDL even though it's always been my dream.

Fast forward to me having to walk away from my last job and not knowing which direction my life was going to take me I prayed to God about what to do next. I didn't even consider trying to get my CDL I was looking at what can I do right now to provide for my family. My fiancé encouraged me to at least try for my CDL thru the WIOA Program because they'll pay for it and it has always been my dream to drive Tractor Trailers.

I come from a family of truck drivers so it's in my blood I just never went for it either because of the timing or the cost. The day I went to apply for the WIOA program I spoke to a guy name Mr. Ingram and it was at that point I knew I was making the right choice. That was only step one because I still had to get approved and let me tell you...I met Mrs. Felicia Crawford and instantly knew that God was leading this journey. I told her my story and she knew I was going to be a great candidate for this opportunity. She approved me to go to Future Truckers of America (one of the best trucking schools on the East Coast) and from that day I prepared myself to begin this new journey I'm on.

I started class August 4th and I dedicated my time and I sacrificed a lot in order to get thru the program which I successfully completed August 27th. It was a very rigorous program, but they give you the tools you need to succeed, and I applied myself with a determination that I won't fail nor let down all those that were supporting me. I was offered a job a week before I completed the program and I accepted that job and picked my truck up the day after graduation. I can't tell you that your story will be like mine, but I know that God brought me thru and is still keeping me because what was once a dream and a vision is now a reality.

I personally am grateful for the WIOA program and especially Mrs. Crawford for believing in me enough to give me a second chance to do something to not only change my life but my family's life as well. With that being said if you dare to change your life but you feel it's not any help out there for you, I'm here to tell you that it is. First trust God and secondly trust the process but you also have to believe that you can do whatever you want and regardless of the circumstances it is never too late for a second chance.

Gaining Perspective Through the Anson Reentry Simulation

Submitted by: Tremictrus Fairley

On Tuesday, July 22, 2025, Ms. Tremictrus Shaw Fairley, Veteran Career Advisor & Veteran Business Services Representative for Moore, Richmond and Montgomery Counties, had the opportunity to participate in the Anson County Reentry Simulation, hosted by Trillium Health Resources at South Piedmont Community College. Ms. Fairley worked the Discount Medical Shop station. While her initial task seemed straightforward, the experience proved to be profoundly eye-opening and transformative.

From her vantage point as a mock service provider, Ms. Shaw Fairley observed firsthand the emotional toll that reentry barriers take on justice-involved individuals. Participants, fully immersed in their roles, faced numerous obstacles as they attempted to rebuild their lives, struggling to secure employment, maintain housing, attend required appointments, and adhere to conditions of release. Many expressed visible frustration and despair when faced with long lines, denials of service, or punitive responses to unavoidable setbacks. The experience illuminated just how quickly hope can fade when the system seems stacked against success.

Witnessing how participants were treated (while remaining in character) gave Ms. Fairley valuable insight into how policies and provider attitudes, however unintentional, can further isolate and discourage justice-involved individuals. It allowed her to see the reentry process through both a participant's and a provider's lens, reinforcing the importance of empathy, flexibility, and dignity in every client interaction.

This experience directly strengthens her role as a Veteran Career Advisor and as a mentor with the Moore County Veterans Treatment Court. Many of the veterans she serves face similar challenges in reentry. By gaining a deeper understanding of their frustrations and systemic barriers, Ms. Shaw Fairley is even better equipped to provide trauma-informed guidance, advocate for individualized support, and connect justice-involved veterans to meaningful employment pathways and resources.

The simulation served as more than just an educational exercise. It was a powerful reminder of the human experience behind every reentry case file. Ms. Shaw Fairley walked away with renewed purpose: to meet each client where they are, to listen more closely, and to continue being a consistent, compassionate advocate on their journey forward.



Health Alliance Medical Plan Rapid Response

Health Alliance Medical Plan Rapid Response was held on August 26, 2025 in the NCWorks Career Center-Moore County at 10:00 A.M. Information was provided to 5 staff members. The last rapid responses sessions will take place in November 2025 for 30 employees that are currently employed. The following topics were covered during the presentations: Unemployment Insurance, DWS overview of services provided, WIOA overview of training programs, Sandhills Community College – Training Provider and US Department of Labor – Benefits overview.



NCWorks Programs & Services

**NCWorks Career Advisors will be on hand
to assist with your training and
employment needs**



LOCATION - USO
2843 Normandy Drive
First floor
Soldier Support Building
Fort Bragg, NC 28307



The 4th Friday of Every Month!!

Dates of Event

June 27 (9:00 am - 1:00 pm)

July 25 (9:00 am - 1:00 pm)

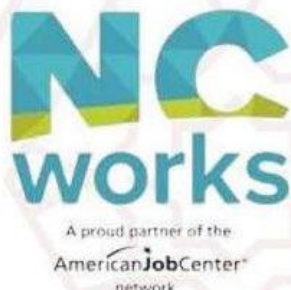
August 22 (9:00 am - 1:00 pm)

September 26 (9:00 am - 1:00 pm)

October 24 (9:00 am - 1:00 pm)

Except for: 3rd Week (November)

November 21 (9:00 am - 1:00 pm)



Contact Person(s)

Lilbeth Howell > 910.912.2412/lilbeth.howell@commerce.nc.gov
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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.asp>

NCWorks Engages at Moore County Expungement Clinic to Address Barriers to Employment

Moore County Expungement Clinic – August 2025

NCWorks Career Center- Moore County participated in the Moore County Expungement Clinic, which is part of the Poor People's Campaign, in collaboration with the law firm of Van Camp, Meachum & Newman PPL on August 16, 2025 at the Trinity Outreach Community Center in Southern Pines, North Carolina. This pro bono clinic offered individuals the chance to meet with attorneys at no cost. Participants were able to learn about expunction eligibility and receive guidance through the process.

During the event, NCWorks Career Center-Moore County staff engaged with several individuals involved in the justice system, discussing a range of services aimed at addressing employment and training needs, especially for those facing barriers due to their justice involvement. Attendees were encouraged to participate in onsite hiring events with second chance employers and seek assistance with resume writing. Tim Ingram – Career Advisor II provided Information on the WIOA programs and distributed literature related to justice involvement. Through this initiative, NCWorks aimed to present employment resources and programs to help deter recidivism and strengthen the workforce.



Best Practices/Continuous Improvement:

Submitted by: Regina Smalls

Often times we have to step back and say; are we meeting our target in the career center? How effective are we to your customers? An *effective* outcome is one that fulfills its intended purpose and delivers real value, while a *successful* outcome simply means a goal or task was completed as planned. *Success* often measures whether the process was followed, or the target was reached, but *effectiveness* goes further by asking if the result truly worked and made a difference. As we look at *effectiveness* does it actually solves the problem or meets the deeper needs it was designed to address. Put simply: *success* is about completion, while *effectiveness* is about impact. We view and work toward our career center services as making an impact on our customers and our community.

MOORE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

Ascent Operations Transition Program

NCWorks Career Center-Moore County -Tim Ingram – CA II attended the Ascent Special Operations Transition Program Networking Event held at the Hatchet Brewing Co. in Southern Pines, NC on 08/08/2025. This event was tailored for military service members who were currently transitioning and others who were soon to be transitioning from the military to civilian work. Staff was able to speak numerous veterans concerning the transition process, discover the areas and types of employment being sought, and explain NCWorks services and how we may assist those transitioning during this time. Tim also met veteran business owners and was able to describe and connect our business services as well. It was a great event to network with our great service men and women while propelling our services within the community.

FAYShrm Meeting

Regina Smalls – Manager attended Fayetteville Society of Human Resources meeting on August 27, 2025. The local chapters provide a platform for HR professionals to connect, share best practices and discuss workforce development strategies. This networking can lead to collaborative initiatives that address local workforce needs. The synergy between workforce development efforts and the area SHRM group is vital for fostering a skilled workforce that meets the need of local businesses and supports economic growth.

A Story of Encouragement – Kenyatta C.

Submitted by: Felicia Reives – Career Advisor I

I have been working with a customer named Kenya C. Kenya lost her husband two years ago and she has finally gotten the strength to try to go back to work. She expressed to me her difficult challenges raising her children and mentally not being able to handle some situations.

I assisted her in registering in NCWorks and we went over her work experience thoroughly. Her previous occupation was in the medical field and she is interested in getting back into the medical field. She needs financial assistance in renewing her Phlebotomy certifications and would like to get her degree in Radiology.

I referred her to the WIOA Case Manager to get more information on receiving financial support to obtain her certifications/degree. I also assisted her with job search opportunities that are available in the area.

I offered our services/workshops on interviewing skills to Kenya. She will contact us when she is ready to start. She has not found a job, but she is a success story because she left feeling encouraged and ready to start her new journey.



Sampson County September Happenings:

Thursday, September 4, 2025, 70 career resource packets were delivered by Career Employment Services Consultant, Josue Pacheco, to Captain Robert C. Johnson, Program Manager for Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy in Salemburg, NC. The career resource packets will be given to parents of the academy cadets during orientation.

On September 5, 2025, the Sampson County NCWorks Career Center sponsored an onsite hiring event for the NC Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) from 10:00am – 1:00pm. DMV is currently recruiting for Driver License Examiners. One applicant was hired as a NC Drivers License Examiner as a result of the event.

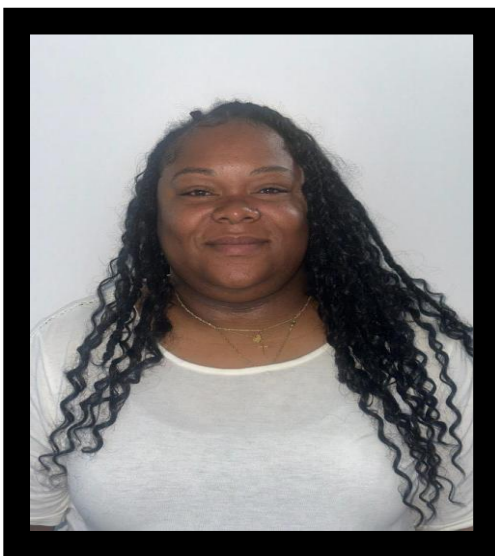
The North Carolina Department of Adult Corrections sponsored a hiring event in the Sampson County NCWorks Career Center on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 from 11:00am – 3:00pm. They currently are recruiting for various positions within their department.

Sampson Community College, in partnership with the Sampson NCWorks Career Center, will be offering a “Computer Basics” class beginning Monday, September 29 – Monday, November 10, 2025 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00am – 12:00pm. The class is free and open to the public.

Medicaid enrollment assistance will be provided by the North Carolina Community Health Center Association (NCHCA) at the Sampson County NCWorks Career Center on Monday, September 29, 2025, from 10:00am – 1:00pm.

Star Communications Ribbon Cutting and Open House will be held on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, from 9:00am – 10:00am to celebrate the opening of their brand-new headquarters located at 1322 Sunset Avenue, Clinton, NC.

SAMPSON COUNTY SUCCESS STORY:

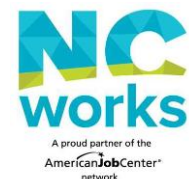


**Congratulations
Pia-labra Anders!**

Pia-labra Anders visited the NCWorks Career Center in Sampson County in search of employment opportunities after being laid off from a local childcare facility in May 2025. Although she was referred to the WIOA program for potential training, she chose to prioritize immediate employment due to personal circumstances.

Pia received *résumé* assistance and interview coaching from Career Employment Services Consultants Tramaine Orellana and Josue Pacheco. With this support, she successfully secured employment as a **North Carolina Driver License Examiner** in Sampson County, beginning work on **September 22, 2025**.

Pia expressed deep gratitude to the NCWorks Career Center for helping her connect with meaningful employment. She is thrilled to have become a state employee and looks forward to serving her community. Her journey reflects true perseverance and a strong commitment to public service.





MID-CAROLINA
Workforce Development Board



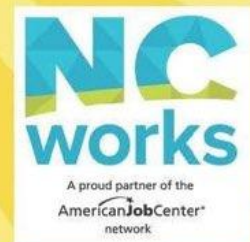
SOFT SKILLS



OCTOBER 20, 2025
10AM-12 PM

LEARN WHAT ARE
SOFT SKILLS AND
WHEN TO APPLY
THEM IN THE
WORKPLACE!

Call or email Sharryn Levert:
sharryn.levert@ncworks.gov or call 910-912-2414, to
register and receive the Meeting Link!!



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.ASP](https://MCCOG.ORG/THE-STEVENS-AMENDMENT.ASP)

Supporting Veterans and Their Families in Career Transitions

On **July 25, 2025**, DVOP Specialist **Beth Howell** led an impactful outreach event in partnership with DVOP **Tremayne Gilchrist** and CODL **Chester Lambert**. The event specifically targeted **transitioning service members, veterans, and their spouses**, offering guidance and resources to support successful career transitions and career changes.

Throughout the day, participants received valuable information about **NCWorks Veterans Programs** and other support services designed to address the unique needs of the veteran community. The event drew a total of **51 participants**, with **25 actively seeking employment opportunities**.

In addition to sharing direct resources, the initiative fostered a sense of community by connecting attendees with partner organizations, including:

- **Veterans Affairs (Benefits)**
- **Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)**
- **Military One Source**
- **VRSI**

This outreach effort not only expanded awareness of available services but also created meaningful connections that will continue to benefit veterans and their families as they pursue civilian career paths.



“Great things are never achieved by one person alone—they are built through the strength, trust, and dedication of a team working together.”

Cumberland County NCWorks Career Center Talent Development: *Journey to a New Career*

Submitted by: Kimberly Petty and Katie Dixon Background Information



In July 2025, A. Wilson faced an unexpected challenge when she lost her job at Campbell University. With a background in the education system and administrative/clerical roles, she found herself at a crossroads. Determined to find new opportunities, she visited the NC Works-Cumberland County Career Center the same day she was released from her position.

The Journey

Upon arriving at the Career Center, A. Wilson was greeted by Career Advisors Kimberly Petty and Katie Dixon. Understanding the urgency of her situation, they immediately provided her with the support she needed. They assisted her in filing for unemployment benefits and guided her through effective job search strategies.

Recognizing her skills and experience, Kimberly and Katie recommended that A. Wilson apply for an internal opening at Equus Workforce Solutions for the position of Adult/Dislocated Worker Talent Development. Encouraged by their support, A. Wilson applied for the position that very day.

The Outcome

Two weeks later, A. Wilson returned to the Career Center for an interview preparation session. With the guidance and encouragement from her Career Advisors, she felt confident and ready for her interview at Equus Workforce Solutions. Her preparation paid off, and she was hired a few weeks later.

New Beginnings

A. Wilson started her new role as an Adult/Dislocated Worker Talent Development at Equus Workforce Solutions on August 1, 2025. Just one week into her new job, she is already settling in well and making valuable contributions to her team. Her quick action, resilience, and willingness to explore new opportunities played a crucial role in her smooth transition into this new role.

Conclusion

A. Wilson's success story is a testament to the power of determination and the importance of having a supportive network. With the help of the NC Works-Cumberland County Career Center and the dedicated efforts of Career Advisors Kimberly Petty and Katie Dixon, A. Wilson was able to navigate a challenging period in her life and secure a new and fulfilling position. Her journey serves as an inspiration to others facing similar challenges, demonstrating that with the right support and mindset, new opportunities are always within reach.

“Every career journey begins with a single step forward—guided by courage, fueled by learning, and strengthened by the community that walks beside you.”

Harnett County NCWorks Career Center Success Stories

The Harnett County NCWorks Career Center continues to celebrate the accomplishments of participants in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs. These stories highlight resilience, determination, and the impact of workforce services across Adult, Dislocated Worker, and NextGen Youth programs.



Adult Success Stories

Christian Kane

On September 22, 2024, Christian Kane became a victim of Hurricane Helene, losing his home, job, and stability. Relocating to Lillington, NC, he sought to rebuild his life. On April 8, 2025, Christian visited the Harnett County Career Center for assistance and enrolled in the **WIOA Adult Program** on May 9, 2025. He began CDL Class A Commercial Truck Driver Training at Carolina Trucking Academy on May 19, 2025, successfully completing the program on July 15, 2025, and earning both a Certificate of Completion and a CDL Class A license. Christian secured **full-time employment with U.S. Express** as a CDL Class A Heavy Tractor-Trailer Truck Driver on August 31, 2025.

Zhane Bethea

A single parent of two children under 18, Zhane enrolled in the **WIOA Adult Program** on August 6, 2024, seeking occupational skills training in the **Central Sterile Technician career field**. She began training at Sampson Community College on August 12, 2024, and successfully completed the program on December 11, 2024. On July 17, 2025, Zhane obtained **full-time employment with Cape Fear Valley Hospital** as a Central Sterile Technician, earning \$20.00 per hour with full benefits.

Dislocated Worker Success Story

Brittany Armstrong

Brittany is pursuing a degree in **Business Administration at Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC)**. Her determination and commitment to excellence have resulted in earning a place on the **Dean's List for three consecutive semesters** with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

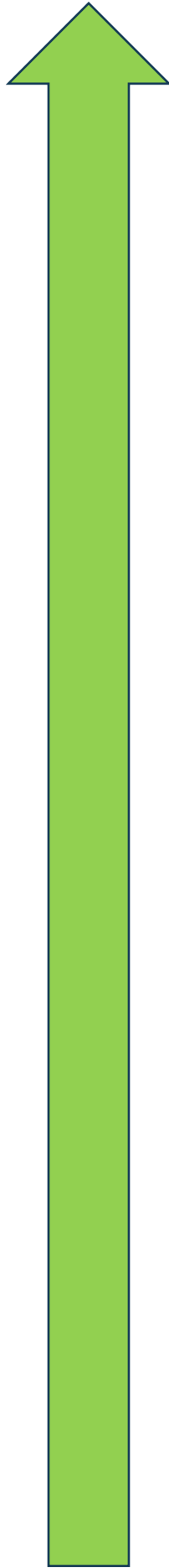
NextGen Youth Success Stories

Gabrielle Quick

Gabrielle enrolled in the **WIOA NextGen Program** on January 15, 2025, unemployed and in need of basic skills support, career counseling, and training opportunities. She identified **Cardiovascular Monitor Technician** as her career pathway and began training at FTCC on June 3, 2025, completing it successfully on August 13, 2025. With support for travel and supplies to address barriers, Gabrielle completed her EKG exam on September 9, 2025, and passed. She is now applying for positions as a Cardiovascular Monitor Technician with the support of her career advisor.

Financial Literacy Workshop

On August 14, 2025, **Sheneka McNeill of Prime American** delivered a Financial Literacy workshop to 13 WIOA participants. Sheneka's contribution is especially noteworthy as she is a **former WIOA NextGen youth participant**, demonstrating the long-term impact of the program.



MOORE COUNTY Career EXPO

& ARPA Workforce Resource Fair



Employers of Moore & Surrounding Counties

Join Us

Thursday, Oct 23

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Employers Scan
to Register
at [NCWorks.gov](https://ncworks.gov)



The Fair Barn

200 Beulah Hill Road South
Pinehurst, NC 28374

NCWorks Career Center-Moore County in partnership with Mid-Carolina WDB, Moore County Chamber of Commerce, Moore County Schools, Sandhills Community College, & Moore County Economic Development Partnership invite you to the Moore County Career Expo & ARPA Workforce Resource Fair! This event is tailored to small businesses and community resources but welcomes larger industries as well. Come prepared to showcase your business, network, and engage with prospects eagerly looking to connect with you!

For assistance with registration or creating an account, please contact the Moore County NCWorks Career Center at (910) 944-7697 or tim.ingram@commerce.nc.gov



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/the-stevens-amendment.as



NEXT MEETING SAVE THE DATE

Next MCWDB Meeting: Tuesday, January 6, 2026
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**