



WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT
Youth Program Report
PY 2022

JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

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Director's Council



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Introduction

Workforce development provides opportunities to connect, train and educate residents for careers that help businesses and our economy thrive. Youth and young adults' exposure to these opportunities are critical to the talent pipeline needed for a strong economy. North Carolina's 20 workforce development boards continue to incorporate new strategies to remove roadblocks for in-school and out-of-school youth, and engage young adults ages 16 to 24 who face barriers to employment.

Implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) includes five components for WIOA programming to interconnect the 14 WIOA required youth elements and ensure participants are prepared for career success through:

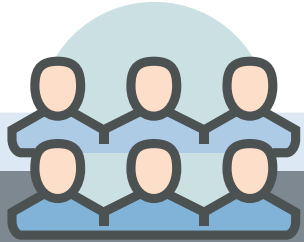
- » education;
- » career pathways;
- » career experience;
- » leadership development; and,
- » wraparound services.

COVID-19 continues to impact delivery of services to North Carolina youth. The NextGen programs across the state pivoted to virtual services in addition to face-to-face to address the impact in 2020. Post pandemic has required workforce boards to rethink outreach strategies to better reach youth who can benefit from services. By coordinating efforts and working collaboratively with other agencies to best serve these young adults, North Carolina workforce development boards achieved the following Federal performance success for participants in PY 22¹:

- » **72.4 percent** were employed within six months.
- » **72.0 percent** remained employed after 1 year.
- » **53.4 percent** who participated in training earned a credential.

Thousands of young adults have found the training and skills needed to enter the workforce and grow in careers they love. North Carolina workforce development boards are committed to ensuring the success of the WIOA youth and young adult program so that we continue to play a role in empowering young adults and bolstering our state's ever-growing workforce.

¹ Source: Future Works database



1,678

Total New Enrollments



Total Youth Served

3,486

COST PER PARTICIPANT
\$4,699



High School Diplomas

247



High School Equivalencies

292

Credentials/Degrees Earned

764

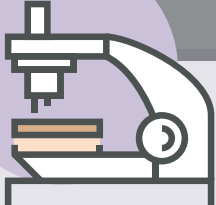


565

College Tours/
Post-Secondary Exposure



Work-Based Learning Opportunities



880



Enrolled in
Occupational Skills Training

769



Working Smart/
Soft Skills Graduates

960

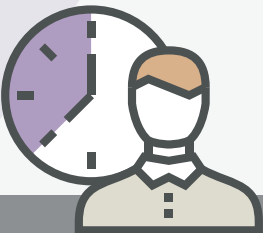
Entered Post-Secondary Education

190



1,013

Entered Employment



Received Supportive Services

1,072



*Because of the timing of this report, the figures reported here may not correspond to the official State reporting numbers.



Reports From NC Workforce Development Boards



Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 79
 - Total Youth Served: 178
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 35
 - Total Soft/Smart Skills Graduates: 25
 - Total Youth Who Entered Post-Secondary Education: 38
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 6
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 2
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 45
 - Total Youth Entering Apprenticeship Opportunities: 1
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 48
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 31
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 42
-
- The Cape Fear Workforce Development Board (WDB) established a partnership with New Hanover and Pender County Schools to reach out to local high school students to educate them about their career and employment options after high school during hiring events, career/college fair days, and workshop days. This unique partnership has given students in local high schools the chance to seek additional financial assistance through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I youth program to help them with funding college after graduation and applying for job opportunities after they have attended and participated in hiring events.
 - The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) youth programs participated in a lot of Hiring Events and Fairs at local high schools throughout the four-county region during the program year to share information with students about career/internship opportunities and jobs that provide a livable wage in order to promote surviving in the current economy.
 - MyFutureNC collaborative hosted its 1st Annual Our Future Cape Fear (OFCF) Community Convening Event on June 22, 2023, at Cape Fear Community College in partnership with the Cape Fear WDB, NCWorks Career

Centers, MyFuture NC, UNCW Continuing Professional Education (CPE), Pender County Schools Career Technical Education (CTE), Sokoto House, Voyage, and AYA Education Consultants! During the event, presenters/ speakers shared updates about and acquired feedback regarding OFCF, offering a space for best practice sharing and learning about resources and tools to help students navigate their paths toward post-secondary credentials to help reach our educational attainment goal by 2030.

- Brunswick Community College hosted a Job Fair that was held on April 20, 2023. Youth staff shared information with students about the WIOA Title I youth program. The NCWorks Career Center and Brunswick Community College partnered together to host this event. WIOA youth staff presented information to High School Equivalency (HSE, GED) students during their Career Expos to educate them on the many program offerings that are available to them.

Grant Recipients

EDSI	\$518,000
Two Hawk Workforce Services	\$210,000
Southeastern Community College	\$180,000

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$528,116
Total Participant Costs	\$274,877
Total Costs	\$802,993

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$217,537
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	27%

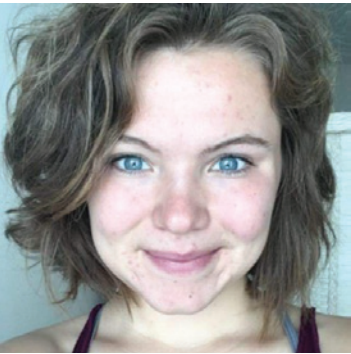
Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$251,236
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	31%

Success Stories

Abby

Abby began the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program at Cape Fear Community College August of 2021. She knew that she would have to balance school and working full-time, but she did not realize how much of a toll this program would take on take on her emotional and financial well being. Then, Abby was introduced to the WIOA program by a friend, a graduate of the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program at Cape Fear Community College.



Abby didn't believe him at first, but upon meeting her youth career advisor, her outlook improved. WIOA helped to cover tuition and fees, reimbursed her for mileage, and even assisted in paying for textbooks and uniforms. She was able to relax and focus on school without constantly worrying about paying rent or bills. Most notably, the WIOA program also paid for her to complete a full-time internship for one semester, allowing her to engage in hands-on occupational therapy training without thinking about going to work after an eight-hour shift. She was getting paid for this work experience internship which was almost unheard of in a college program. Abby was supported by the program offerings from the WIOA program and can truly say her success in this program is 100% thanks to the financial support she had received. Abby is now currently on track to graduate from the OTA program in May 2023 and has already received two job offers contingent upon her attainment of her certification. She believes the WIOA program should be accessible to more students making their way through community college programs as they work part or full-time jobs to support themselves financially. Abby believes that education is so important and leads to so much happiness, but without financial stability, it can be difficult or almost impossible to obtain.

Destiny

Destiny was born in Loris, South Carolina, and at the age of four, her family moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Interboro High School in Prospect Park, PA, June 2018, with her High School Diploma. Destiny decided to take a short break from school and enlist in the United States Army. In March of 2019, she began her basic training and was later stationed in Fort Bragg, NC, as a Combat Engineer. One year shy of her three year contract expiration date, Destiny was honorably discharged due to having surgery on her shoulder.

After receiving her discharge paperwork, she relocated back to Philladelphia to become a volunteer firefighter. During her time as a volunteer firefighter, she realized that she wanted to serve the community in a greater capacity, so she decided to pursue a career in law enforcement. While in the Army, Destiny would come to Tabor City, North Carolina, to visit her grandmother and eventually fell in love with the environment and scenery.



In May of 2022, she relocated to Tabor City, NC, to live with her grandmother and begin Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) at Southeastern Community College. Destiny enrolled in the NCWorks WIOA NextGen youth program to receive financial assistance for the cost of tuition, books, fees, and supplies. The BLET course began in May 2022 and ended in November of the same year. After completion of the BLET course, she began her employment search with her youth career advisor. After months of searching for employment, Destiny found her career and is looking forward to her new role in law enforcement. As of April 21, 2023, she has been sworn in as Deputy with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under the supervision of the county sheriff.

Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 142
 - Total Youth Served: 281
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 33
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 72
 - Total Smart/Soft Skills Graduates: 142
 - Total Youth Who Entered Post-Secondary Education: 2
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 9
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 11
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 54
 - Total Youth Entering Apprenticeship Opportunities: 6
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 26
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 120
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 102
-
- Capital Area Workforce Development (CAWD) NextGen Program won the 2022 Youth Program of the Year award for its apprenticeship prep program that prepares youth and young adults for in-demand occupations. The award was presented by the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP). CAWD's team accepted the award at NAWDP's 2022 Youth Symposium in Charlotte on Nov. 14th, 2022.
 - Capital Area Workforce Development (CAWD) Apprenticeship Prep Program partnered with Wake Tech Community College for an Information Technology (IT) pre-apprenticeship for NextGen participants. Four participants started training in February and will have the opportunity to gain skills and certifications including CompTIA IT Fundamentals+, CompTIA A 220-1001, and CompTIA A220-1002. After completion of training, participants may continue training, begin employment, or connect to a Registered Apprenticeship program.
 - NextGen Wake hosted a Skilled Trades Career Day on June 28, 2023. The purpose of the event was to highlight Skilled Trades industries for NextGen participants as Skilled Trades is one of CAWD's certified pathways. The event featured three employers – Lane Construction, Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractor (PHCC of NC), and Streamline Services Plumbing, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) & Electrical. The biggest highlight of

the event was the Be Pro Be Proud skilled trades virtual reality and career simulator truck. The truck featured virtual reality and hands-on simulation for industries such as commercial driving, welding, Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machining, heavy equipment operation, etc. The event was a success with a constant flow of traffic and 43 attendees.

- Capital Area's NextGen Program was awarded a \$200,000 Recovery to Work grant funded by the Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. This grant will assist youth and young adults with or at-risk for substance use disorders (SUD) to develop and carry out a career plan that leads to successful employment. A virtual kickoff event was held on May 17, 2023, for 13 community partners from behavioral health, youth-serving organizations, and juvenile justice.
- CAWD implemented Transfr as a virtual reality (VR) solution for career exploration in their NCWorks & NextGen Centers. Transfr's hands-on simulation training is offered via VR headsets and focuses on targeted industries such as Skilled Trades and Advanced Manufacturing. The VR headsets have been a huge hit with the NextGen participants for career exploration.

Grant Recipients

Educational Data Systems, Inc (EDSI)	\$1,091,000
Johnston County Industries, Inc (JCI)	\$500,000

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$1,148,760
Total Participant Costs	\$384,204
Total Costs	\$1,532,964

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$105,503
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	7%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$278,700
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	18%

Success Stories

Sonia

Sonia is the epitome of exceptional. She's the true definition of what it means to be self-motivating, passionate, encouraging, and one's own cheerleader. Sonia enrolled in the NCWorks NextGen program in March 2022 seeking assistance with attaining her General Educational Development diploma (GED). With the support of the NCWorks NextGen Youth Advocates and Johnston Community College (JCC)'s GED Instructor, Sonia achieved her GED goals in a matter of months. Sonia was not only a cheerleader for herself, but also for her classmates. She was always eager to encourage and empower others who were also working towards their GED diplomas. Sonia consistently demonstrated leadership and kindness during each GED class by proactively assisting her peers in grasping challenging math concepts and providing uplifting support as they prepared for their exams. She engaged in enriched discussions by sharing her educational experiences from her family's home country, offering a unique perspective on the differences between education systems in the United States and other countries. Sonia was invited to be a key speaker for Johnston Community College's graduation ceremony in May.



CAWD Team accepting the 2022 Youth Program of the Year award at NAWDP's 2022 Youth Symposium.

John

John completed the NCWorks NextGen Program in January 2023. He wanted to give back to the program that helped him greatly. With the support of the NextGen program, John was afforded an opportunity to start his own business, Overcomerz, specializing in transforming creative ideas into visually appealing designs that can be printed or transferred onto T-shirts and other articles of clothing. He hosted an Entrepreneurship Workshop at the NextGen Center entitled "Starting Your Own Clothing Business" for NextGen participants in May 2023. In the workshop, he discussed branding strategies, how he started his T-shirt business, and the challenges he faced. He also gave a Cricut and Heat Press Demonstration. Participants created their very own custom t-shirts and gained valuable information. John expects continued success in his business.



Be Pro Be Proud virtual reality and career simulator Truck at NextGen Wake's Skilled Trades Career Day Event



Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 75
 - Total Youth Served: 109
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 29
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 54
 - Total Soft/Smart Skills Graduates: 49
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 4
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 26
 - Total Youth Entering Apprenticeship Opportunities: 2
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 43
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 118
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 6
-
- Centralina WDB NextGen opened 2 additional Opportunity Sites in marginalized communities in the Centralina WDB region during this past program year, making services available to our most at risk customers. These sites are in East Spencer (Rowan County) at the East Spencer Town Hall and in Troutman (Iredell County) at the Troutman Public Library.
 - Centralina WDB NextGen staff now utilize Meet Now as a convenient option to connect anywhere, anytime with customers. Access to Meet Now is included with every Career Development Specialist's email signature, on Youth Opportunity site computers, and the NC Centralina App. Currently averaging 15 customers throughout the region per month are using this feature. All customers also have easy access to their Career Development Specialist via virtual appointments using WebEx and/or Microsoft Teams, cell phone, and text messages.
 - Centralina WDB NextGen staff are participating in Carolina Across 100 collaborative in Lincoln County. This ncIMPACT Initiative, one of only 5 in NC, is designed to develop and implement a cogent strategy that supports Opportunity Youth in connecting or re-connecting to living wage employment opportunities or high quality post-secondary educational opportunity.

Grant Recipients

Equus Workforce Solutions	\$1,085,155
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NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$944,521
Total Participant Costs	\$248,013
Total Costs	\$1,192,534

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$240,491
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	20%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$351,921
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	30%

Success Stories

Rickey

Rickey came into the local Cenralina WDB NCWorks Career Center seeking "a change." Rickey was employed as a Customer Service Representative; however, she was not happy with her current employment and was seeking a career not just a job. Rickey had a desire to become a dental assistant. Rickey took a leap of faith and quit her current employment to start a new career. Rickey successfully enrolled in Centralina WDB NextGen program and completed Legacy, a career readiness training that combines job search, job readiness, and cognitive thinking skills training to assist with determining Rickey's next steps. Through career coaching and guidance from her NextGen Career Development Specialist, Rickey began dental assisting training in February 2023 and successfully completed



training in May 2023. The Career Development Specialist, along with the Business Services Consultant, assisted Rickey with job search and updating her resume. Rickey is currently employed at Smiles in the Sun Dentistry.

Brendan

Brendan dropped out of community college with a desire to create a fresh start in North Carolina as a Pit Crew Apprentice with Trackhouse Racing, based in Concord, NC. Brendan's previous work history included fast food, landscaping, and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC). Brendan had no experience as a mechanic or as a pit crew member in the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR). Brendan came to Centralina WDB NextGen services requesting assistance as he was presented with the opportunity to participate in the pre-apprenticeship program with Trackhouse Racing Pit Crew. Brendan enrolled in NextGen services and began his journey as a pre-apprentice. NextGen assisted him financially through the work experience program providing income and support as Brendan worked to complete the pre- apprenticeship. Brendan successfully completed the pre-apprenticeship/work experience program in April 2022, leading to full-time employment with Trackhouse Racing and transitioning him to their two-year Apprenticeship program in June 2022.



Brendan worked diligently through Centralina WDB NextGen On-the-Job training and Trackhouse's Apprenticeship Program and completed the On-the-Job training in April 2023, completing his first year of the apprenticeship program in June 2023.

Brendan was a member of the winning team, Project 91 at NASCAR's first ever Street Course Race in Chicago, July 1-2, 2023. Brendan is Trackhouse's first registered apprenticeship enrollee. It was a special win as it was not only his first career NASCAR Cup Series win as an over the wall pit crew member but also Trackhouse's first win for Project 91 team.

Trackhouse is a sports and entertainment brand rooted in racing, bringing a fresh approach to NASCAR, sports, and

entertainment. Owned by former driver Justin Marks and team partner and Grammy Award winning superstar Armando Christian Pérez, also known as Pitbull, Trackhouse Racing is now one of the top teams in NASCAR Cup Series.



Pictured: Monica Gramling- NextGen Program Leader NCWorks Centralina, Phil Foster-Director of Trackhouse Racing Apprenticeship Program, Kim Carpenter-Project Director NCWorks Centralina, & Amy Weatherman- Deputy Project Director NCWorks Centralina



NextGen Centralina Team



NextGen Program Leader, Monica Gramling, Mayor Pro Tem Shawn Rush, and NextGen Council Member & Centralina Workforce Development Board Member, Desiree Dunston, Novant Health Rowan County

Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 185
- Total Youth Served: 436
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 160
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 147
- Total Smart/Soft Skills Graduates: 121
- Total Youth Who Entered Post-Secondary Education: 46
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 50
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 46
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 212
- Total Youth Entering Apprenticeship Opportunities: 1
- Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 81
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 40
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 196

Grant Recipients

Equus Workforce Solutions	\$922,958
Central Piedmont Community College	\$914,945
MeckEd	\$633,253

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$1,105,190
Total Participant Costs	\$971,644
Total Costs	\$2,076,834

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$212,431
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	10%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$570,489
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	27%

Success Stories

Binhur

Binhur joined the MeckEd Career Pathways program in September 2021 to expose himself to opportunities within the MeckEd program, participating in work experiences, field trips, and other programming. He recently graduated from Garinger High School in the top ten percent of his class.



Binhur, from Eritrea, participated in the MeckEd Career Pathways program for two years. As a senior, Binhur received acceptance into UNC-Charlotte, where he will continue to pursue a career in Computer Science or Cyber Security. Throughout his participation in the MeckEd program, Binhur has acquired invaluable work-based learning experiences allowing him to explore diverse career paths and cultivate essential skills for future employment. He participated in the Inner Peace/Inner Strength mentoring program, completed the Working Smart curriculum, visited local colleges and companies, and engaged with various workshop speakers throughout his time in MeckEd.

Two internships enhanced his preparation. He was an Application Product Management Specialist with Gradify, a Digital Navigator at Informative Technologies and a 3D Printer Operator at Mign. These internships promoted his skill development, notably enhancing effective communication, customer support, proactive initiative, leadership, attention to detail, and technical writing proficiency. He has participated in photography and film classes at Studio 345, a free, creative, out-of-school youth development program for Charlotte-Mecklenburg high school students.

When asked about his experience in the MeckEd Career Pathways program, Binhur stated, "MeckEd equips students with the skills, exposure, and connections needed to make informed decisions about their future careers and educational pathways. With MeckEd, experiences like job shadowing, internships, and college visits helped me to make decisions about my future career and educational options."

Binhur contributes to the Road to Hire program and is a member of the Garinger swim team. Additionally, he works as a lifeguard and engages in school yearbook, tennis, and participate in feeding the homeless programs.

Montavious

Montavious graduated from Central Piedmont Community College with an audio engineering certificate allowing him to explore recording studios, learn about audio consoles, equipment, and echo chambers, and apply multi-track recording and post-production editing techniques.

Montavious chose audio engineering as his field of study learning how music is produced, recorded, mixed, and mastered for radio, television, video games, CDs, and vinyl records. "I hope to become a touring audio engineer, whether for live concerts or in-studio work. I want to improve my music and work on other people's albums and singles," says Montavious. He hopes to find a job that will allow him to continually learn and elevate his skills.



"I was helped by the NextGen program every step of the way, from getting my high school diploma to paying for my classes and books, getting bus passes when I didn't have bus fare, and given an internship here at Central Piedmont in outreach & recruitment, " explains Montavious. He participated in most elements of the NextGen program including Working Smart soft skills training, internship opportunities, workplace tours, job shadowing, learning about the labor market, and entrepreneurship.

Monty encourages other students to follow their dreams and achieve their goals. He has spoken to the workforce board, helped create videos featuring student success, and co-led student motivational workshops. He worked at Central Piedmont as a part-time administrative assistant in Admissions, a Stage Technician in Performance Facilities, and now has been promoted to full-time Assistant Technical

Director for Performance Facilities & Events.

According to Monty, "We all come from different places, environments, and backgrounds, so everyone's journey will be unique. In the end, we all experience highs and lows throughout our journeys, but it's how you handle pressure at your lowest point that ultimately determines your success."

I am STEAM event!



Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 21
 - Total Youth Served: 86
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 12
 - Total Smart/Soft Skills Graduates: 10
 - Total Youth Who Entered Post-Secondary Education: 1
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 4
 - Total Youth Entering Apprenticeship Opportunities: 2
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 3
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 7
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 13
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- We began providing services outside of the office at partner locations to meet participants where they are. One key partnership is with Durham Housing Authority, where staff have regular recruitment events and participate in dual enrollment/hiring events.
 - We continue to partner with the Project BUILD Gang Intervention Program to support young adults in need of WIOA services. Staff meet monthly to review caseloads, provide intensive services and connect to resources throughout Durham.
 - Four participants completed work experiences with the City of Durham's YouthWorks program. They served as Program Assistants providing online classroom technical support to the instructors and interns.
 - We continue to explore creative recruitment methods to increase program enrollment, including marketing the program on job posting sites.

Grant Recipients

Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc.	\$250,000
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NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$186,629
Total Participant Costs	\$35,964
Total Costs	\$222,593

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$3,318
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	1%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$65,444
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	29%

Success Stories

Nyarie

Nyarie is an amazing, patient and determined young mother who is destined for greatness. Her journey with the NCWorks NextGen Durham program began in December 2022. She was very clear on her goals of receiving training and finding stable employment. Shortly after enrolling, Nyarie began attending professional development workshops. She clearly demonstrated that she was work ready, however, one major obstacle stood in her way – no childcare. She was on the Social Services childcare waitlist for over a year! Despite not having childcare, she continued to pursue employment. In January 2023, Nyarie began a work experience (WEX) with the H.E.A.R.T.S. organization as an Ambassador where she excelled at promoting the program on social media, being an advocate for single parents and providing administrative support. Almost two months later, Nyarie received the best news – she was no longer on the waitlist and her daughter



could attend childcare! Not having childcare was a challenge, but it didn't stop Nyarie from pushing towards her dreams. During her WEX, you would catch her hard at work with her daughter by her side. It was great having an employer who was willing to work with her specific situation. Currently, Nyarie is preparing to start her new full-time position as a Teacher Assistant with Durham Public Schools. She is a hard worker and great mother to her daughter. We are so proud of Nyarie and everything she has accomplished in such a short period of time. We know she will continue to excel in this program and afterwards.

Giovanni

Giovanni is a single mother of two kids determined to create a better life for her and her kids. Giovanni knew she wanted to work in healthcare but needed assistance to reach her goal. Upon enrollment into the NCWorks NextGen Durham program, Giovanni immediately began working with her Career Coach to identify her chosen career path and an eligible training provider. In January, she began the Nurse Aid program with CareOne Health Institute. While in training, she experienced hardships with childcare but did not let that stop her. Giovanni notified the training provider who worked with her to adjust her training and clinical schedule. One month later, Giovanni began full-time employment with Duke as a CNA. She continued to work full-time while completing the nurse aid program. Giovanni successfully completed the program and earned her state credentials in March. After completing this goal, she discussed with her Career Coach the possibility of adding on a stackable credential by completing either the Medication Aide or Nurse Aid II program. Ultimately, she decided to enroll in ECPI's LPN program in April. She recently completed her first semester and is scheduled to graduate in September 2024. Giovanni is a smart, focused and driven young lady who will continue to excel in every goal she sets.



NextGen participation in the March 30th Battle in the Bull Career Expo, an annual youth centered employment event held at the Durham Convention Center.



Youth attending the Battle in the Bull Career Expo.

Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 152
- Total Youth Served: 246
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 38
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 41
- Total Smart/Soft Skills Graduates: 61
- Total Youth Who Entered Post-Secondary Education: 5
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 33
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 46
- Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 84
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 46
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 39

- Expanded NextGen program social media presence as an outreach tool to Include NextGen participant success stories and acknowledgement of their achievements throughout participation.
- 88% of NextGen Career Advisors attended and participated in the NC Youth Forum.
- 78% of NextGen Career Advisors completed the Youth Services Certification through PowerNotes, LLC.
- 13 NextGen Youth participated in Financial Literacy Training.
- 21 NextGen Youth participated in Leadership Development Services.
- 53% of NextGen enrollments were enrolled in Alternative Secondary School services or Dropout Recovery Services.

Grant Recipients

Carteret Community College	\$249,526
Coastal Carolina Community College	\$216,245
Eckerd Youth Alternatives	\$352,268
Lenoir Community College	\$304,948
Wayne Community College	\$137,585
Wayne County Public Schools	\$150,000

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$892,855
Total Participant Costs	\$388,710
Total Costs	\$1,281,565

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$111,352
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	9%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$277,358
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	22%

Success Stories

Evan

Evan enrolled in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program in November 2022. He dropped out of high school several years before and had been "on his own" for most of his young adult life. Evan met with his Career Advisor and mapped out the steps for him to reach his goals, including completing his high school equivalency (HSE) diploma, obtaining work experience, and preparing for his post-secondary transition. When asked about his interest in law enforcement, Evan shared that he survived a family whereby he reported that the police were called to his house excessively due to his parents' domestic violence. However, Evan had positive role models in law enforcement in his family, which spawned his interest and motivation to be a positive role model in the field. Evan earned his HSE diploma approximately one month after enrolling in WIOA and entered a paid work experience with the Morehead City Police Department (MCPD) in January 2023 where he excels in each challenge they give him, including fingerprinting, taser training, and working with drug sniffing dogs. He revels



in the camaraderie of the officers and staff and is hopeful of being sworn into the MCPD next year if a spot is available. Due to his age, Evan will not enter post-secondary Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) until January 2024, where his tuition will likely be sponsored by the MCPD collaborating with WIOA to assist with books and supplies. In the meantime, Evan has found a position as a Security Officer at the local hospital to help build his skills while continuing to maintain his work experience at the MCPD and networking with local officers absorbing their breadth of knowledge. Evan can also be seen "moonlighting" as McGruff the Crime Dog at official police events and when local schools visit the police department.

Everett

Everett was enrolled in the General Educational Development (GED) Program at Craven Community College. He wasted no time completing his equivalency diploma and moved directly into the first available welding class offered at the Volt Center. He had his sights set on his goal and nothing was going to stop him. Everett's welding instructor had nothing but good things to say about his attendance, attention to detail, and technique. While attending day training at the Volt Center, Everett pursued a work experience opportunity with Chatsworth Products (CPI). He soon began his work experience as a second shift welder at CPI while working to complete his Welding I & II credentials. He was paired up with a welding team supervisor who helped to ensure Everett was safe, had guidance and felt supported while participating in this work experience. Everette completed his Welding I & II credentials and was offered full-time employment with Chatsworth starting on June 26, 2023.



Travis

Travis of Snow Hill has a new job with a promising career in his future. Travis attended the High School Equivalency classes at Lenoir Community College's (LCC) Greene County Center. With some encouragement, Travis enrolled in the NextGen WIOA Youth program in August 2022. Travis set goals to attain his High School Equivalency Diploma, attain his national Career Readiness Certificate, successfully

complete a work experience (WEX) with the Town of Snow Hill, and obtain his driver's license. He completed all his goals in record time. In addition, while working with the Town, he decided he would like to pursue a career in wastewater management. "I learned new skills through this work experience and through the program," Travis said. Because of his work ethic, dependability, and interest in becoming a wastewater operator, he was hired full-time by the Town in May 2023. He plans to enroll in wastewater classes to become a certified operator as soon as possible. "I am so thankful for [everyone] getting involved and encouraging me to make a great choice to enroll in the NextGen program," Travis said. "The mentoring I received from all the instructors and staff at LCC, and the knowledge I gained from my co-workers and my supervisor all played a part in my success. I thank God for making this all come together, from the work experience to landing a job with the Town of Snow Hill. I am grateful."



Lenoir Community College NextGen participants engaging in a business tour of Crown Equipment Company



Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 29
 - Total Youth Served: 61
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 15
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 31
 - Total Smart/Soft Skills Graduates: 24
 - Total Youth Who Entered Post-Secondary Education: 7
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 1
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 11
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 18
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 31
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 13
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 40
-
- 82% of youth served were out of school.
 - 85% of youth who participated in a Work Experience remained employed with the company at the end of their training.
 - 86% of youth who exited the program entered full time employment.
 - 100% of youth enrolled were low income.
 - 70% of youth who exited the program that participated in a training/educational activity received a credential.
 - Provided workplace tour and exposure to 40 youth.
 - 40% of youth who exited the program entered post-secondary education.
 - 85% of youth enrolled in training obtained at least one Measurable Skills Gain.
 - Over 200 students attended the Cleveland County's annual Making-It-Work Manufacturing and Engineering Awareness Fair held in Cleveland County. Students from nine Cleveland, Rutherford, and Polk County schools met with 30+ local manufacturing leaders and received hands-on experience in engineering and manufacturing through the annual Making It Work Fair. The first phase included an industry tour with students visiting a local manufacturing plant near their high school. During the fair, students participated in the Industry Expo. The students were given bingo cards, receiving a mark for every vendor they met with, encouraging them to visit every vendor. Every year, the most consistent feedback

from the students is that the expo is their favorite activity, and the companies are always surprised with how engaged the students are and the questions they ask. The most hands-on event is the engineering competition hosted by NC State University. Divided into groups of three or four, the students were asked to build a power-generating windmill from nothing but a CD, popsicle sticks, scissors, post-it notes and a glue stick. The groups were given 45 minutes to complete the challenge. A power meter was set-up to measure the electricity generated by the hand created windmills. The highest generated power reached the 500 watts range. The winning team created a popsicle windmill that emanated enough watts to charge four car batteries. The event is focused on engineering but other career paths manufacturing like technology, science, mathematics, accounting and marketing are included. The event teaches students that manufacturing is more than just assembly lines and "outdated" work. The students are very engaged in the competitive events and enjoy the interaction with NC State's team and employers.

Grant Recipients

Two Hawk Workforce Services	\$532,291
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NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$301,819
Total Participant Costs	\$195,953
Total Costs	\$497,772

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$90,459
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	18%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$105,494
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	21%

Success Stories

Levi

Levi received the 2022 Governor's NCWorks Award of Distinction for outstanding teen. Governor Roy Cooper states that Levi was selected because he embodied the true spirit of NCWorks and workforce development. He is a positive role model for young people and his community. His skills and educational attainment are the keys to success in the global economy. Getting NC "job ready" requires the continued hard work of people like Levi, who seek to keep their skills level high. Levi completed his high school diploma, participated in post-secondary schooling, and obtained employment since enrolling in the NextGen Youth Program in the fall of 2021.



The COVID pandemic disrupted the traditional in-person teaching at Levi's high school. Unable to adjust to web-based learning, he chose to attend the Adult High School Program at Cleveland Community College. His diligence toward the academics, paired with dropout prevention strategies, tutoring, study skill strategies, incentives, and monthly comprehensive guidance and counseling from his case manager, resulted in attainment of his high school diploma in November 2021. He came to NextGen seeking support for his education and participated in leadership development, financial literacy, and post-secondary education.

Levi also learned and developed soft skills during his time in NextGen, including communication, time-management, problem-solving, teamwork, work ethic, and attention to detail. He is also learning to be financially independent now that he earns his own money. Levi attends Cleveland Community College in Business Administration and wants to start his own business.

Levi worried that college education would result in insurmountable debt and was hesitant to apply for student loans. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program alleviated that concern and given him the opportunity to pursue his degree. He has stated that his

amazing case manager has provided incredible support to him as he follows his dream.

Zoie

Zoie was 19 years old in 2022, had an 8-month-old son, was unemployed, and lived in a high poverty area. For her to support herself and her son, she had to rely on government assistance. She received Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and lived in Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing, receiving a monthly voucher from HUD. While Zoie was grateful for the assistance and support she received, her goal was to someday stand on her own two feet and to provide support for herself and her son without assistance from anyone. Zoie's first step toward meeting her goal was to enroll in Pre-Requisite courses at Isothermal Community College. It was Zoie's instructor who told her about the NextGen WIOA Youth program.



In 2023, Zoie is now 20 years old with a lively, active one-year-old. Since enrolling in the WIOA Youth Program a year ago, Zoie's focus has been on her education. WIOA has provided her with assistance in paying for her college tuition, books, and fees, as well as supportive services for uniforms, shoes, testing etc. The support and assistance that the NextGen WIOA Youth Program provided, have helped her to begin breaking down the barriers that she faces. Zoie has excelled in her education. She graduated from the Dental Assisting Program at Isothermal Community College on May 12, 2023. She will now begin, with the assistance of her WIOA Youth Case Manager, refining her resume, practicing her interviewing skills, and seeking employment as a Dental Assistant. Zoie now knows that to achieve her goals, she must have a high paying career, and that breaking down barriers begins with a good education.



Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 32
- Total Youth Served: 41
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 21
- Total Youth Who Entered Post-Secondary Education: 1
- Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 28
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 5
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 41

- 4 participants in active WEX placement.
- 7 participants completed Pharmacy Tech program.
- 5 participants completed Commerical Driver's License (CDL).
- 3 participants completed Dental Assistant 1 progam.
- 1 participant received employment as Dental Assistant.
- 5 participants received Commerical Truck Driver employment.
- Participated in local area Career Fairs.
- Participated in various community outreach events.

Grant Recipients

Gaston College	\$306,856
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NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$223,805
Total Participant Costs	\$82,570
Total Costs	\$306,375

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$75,774
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	25%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$5,029
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	2%

Success Stories

Demoniya

Demoniya, an unemployed single parent, enrolled in NextGen in search of stable employment and training. As a result of her participation in NextGen, she was accepted into the Phlebotomy program at Gaston College. The phlebotomy course includes classroom theory, lab, and a clinical externship, requiring attendance at a clinical site to complete a minimum of 75 successful venipunctures and 144 hours of clinical experience.



Monashea

Monashea was an underpaid, parenting youth living in high poverty area. She enrolled in the NextGen program with intentions of becoming a Pharmacy Technician. Soon after enrollment, she began coursework with AA Family Health Plus to become a Pharmacy Tech. Since completing the course, she began a Work Experience program working 30 hours weekly at Gaston Pharmacy.



Jeffery

Jeffery was an unemployed, ex-offender and parenting youth living in a high poverty area. He enrolled in NextGen seeking to become a Commercial Driver's Licensed (CDL) truck driver. Soon after enrollment, he began the CDL course through new WIOA provider TransEnergy. He will take his final CDL license test July 2023.



NEXTGEN Recruitment Event



NEXTGEN Workshop



Alexis is all smiles as she enrolled in the NextGen program to begin her six week Pharmacy Tech program through AA Family Health Plus.



Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 154
 - Total Youth Served: 206
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 11
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 27
 - Total Soft Smart/Skills Graduates: 82
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 2
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 29
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 23
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 154
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 24
-
- Partnering with the GuilfordWorks Workforce Development Board and Triad Goodwill Industries, the NextGen Youth Program has assisted in the creation of the Fresh Start Initiative to provide workforce development services to the judicially-impacted population of Guilford County as well as the immigrant and refugee population.
 - The NextGen Program of Guilford County is in its second year of leading the Police Chief’s 500 Jobs Summer Initiative in honor of Chief Brian James of the Greensboro Police Department.
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Grant Recipients

Educational Data Systems, Inc. (EDSI)	\$1,050,000
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NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$841,219
Total Participant Costs	\$210,023
Total Costs	\$1,051,242

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$56,203
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	5%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$174,844
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	17%

Success Stories

Noah

Noah enrolled in the NextGen program on September 15, 2022. Together with his Youth Advocate, Noah explored various industries using career assessments such as O*Net. Noah’s Youth Advocate assisted him to complete NextGen’s Steps to Success plan which includes career readiness workshops, a mock interview, and a resumé session with the Digital Skills instructor. After completing this plan, Noah was determined to focus on finding well-paying, meaningful employment that would empower him to become self-sufficient.



During his career search, Noah informed his Youth Advocate that he had personal barriers that would prevent him from obtaining full-time employment. The Youth Advocate commended him for feeling confident in disclosing these barriers and encouraged him to continue his job search in the NextGen program as she would advocate for him to obtain work experience. Noah’s Youth Advocate then discussed his work experience and challenges with the Work-based Learning Coordinator. The Work-based Learning Coordinator informed his Youth Advocate that he would be a good candidate for Furnitureland South as an intern. Noah and his Youth Advocate discussed Furnitureland South as an option for work experience, and Noah was very interested in the opportunity.

While overcoming his personal barriers, Noah stayed in contact with his Youth Advocate to inform him of his progress. During this time Noah completed an employment readiness workshop with the Digital Skills Instructor. Noah was able to start his internship with Furnitureland South on November 11, 2022, which he completed on January 5, 2023. Not only did Noah successfully complete his internship, he was hired full-time and is now working as a Material Handler making \$15 per hour.

Ka Leal

On March 31, 2023, Ka Leal was accompanied by his family to the NextGen office in downtown Greensboro to inquire about employment services. While explaining the program requirements and learning about the adversity Ka Leal and his family had faced, it became evident that this young man was experiencing significant barriers and needed professional guidance. Both Ka Leal and his parents were motivated to seek opportunities for greater success.



Throughout the process, it was wonderful to see Ka Leal and his parents working together to ensure that all program requirements were met in a timely manner. Ka Leal decided to pursue a career in the Information Technology field. His desire for training in the field of Information Technology was curated by the Youth Advocate, including referral to NextGen’s Digital Skills Instructor to complete Career Readiness Workshops and a resume.

Ka Leal collaborated with the Work-Based Learning Coordinator in determining workplace training opportunities. Learning of an opportunity with the Nehemiah Community Empowerment Center, Ka Leal’s excitement was extremely apparent as he was eager to tour the site the same day. With the assistance of the Work-Based Learning Coordinator, the Ka Leal’s request was granted.

During the tour, Ka Leal met with the Program Director and gained insight into their services to make an informed decision to receive training at Nehemiah. After the tour, Ka Leal contacted his Youth Advocate to express his enthusiasm and appreciation to the NextGen Staff.

Currently, Ka Leal is serving as a Youth Counselor at Nehemiah’s and was enrolled in the Information Technology program with the Nehemiah Center on June 20, 2023. Since being enrolled at the Nehemiah Center, Ka Leal has been

recognized by the Nehemiah Center on several occasions for his commitment and willingness to go above and beyond within the program.

Erica

Erica enrolled in theNextGen program on April 25, 2023, seeking guidance and support in determining her future career path. In conversation with the Youth Advocate, Erica indicated a need for increased structure and professional guidance. The assigned Youth Advocate provided Erica with an overview and expectations of the NextGen program and assured her that the desired structure would be provided. Erica was extremely motivated for change, success, and support of the NextGen program.



Erica’s motivation and devotion was evident throughout the enrollment process, as she quickly navigated the Steps to Success plan under the direction of the Youth Advocate and other NextGen Staff. While completing these requirements, Erica also managed to secure full-time employment as a Personal Care Assistant. With assistance of her Youth Advocate, Erica began Phlebotomy training on June 5, 2023.

Not only has Erica demonstrated a desire to improve her quality of life, but she also desires to help others by becoming a NextGen Ambassador to offer guidance and direction to newly enrolled NextGen participants. On one occasion Erica attended the “Tuesday Takeoff” to share her experiences and encourage new participants to collaborate with NextGen Staff in the process of transforming their futures.



Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 58
 - Total Youth Served: 99
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 16
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 10
 - Total Smart/Soft Skills Graduates: 35
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 5
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 7
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 45
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 26
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 36
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 45
-
- Staff serve on local Business Advisory Council's and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committees
 - Represent NCWorks NextGen at High School Career Fairs and ACT events
 - Represent NCWorks NextGen at Middle School career awareness events
 - Ongoing engagement with families and students at back to school events, open houses, and community events
 - Present workshops such as transitioning to employment, employment projections, and work readiness skills to students
 - Maintained an increased focus on work based learning opportunities that resulted in increased work experience/ internship placements for young adults

Grant Recipients

Goodwill Industries of Northwest North Carolina	\$210,000
Mayland Community College	\$250,000

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$329,671
Total Participant Costs	\$164,153
Total Costs	\$493,824

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$26,379
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	5%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$198,018
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	40%

Success Stories

Jeffrey

Jeffrey enrolled with NCWorks NextGen knowing he had to work hard to reach his goals. Faced with the loss of his mother and struggling in school, Jeffrey dropped out of high school in the 11th grade. After dropping out of school, he enrolled at Wilkes Community College to complete his General Educational Development diploma (GED) and explore his career interests. His NCWorks Career Advisor connected him with a local employer, Injected Diesel Performance, where he participated in a paid work experience. He quickly learned many new skills and became a part of the team while he continued to receive guidance from his Career Advisor. Jeffrey earned his GED diploma and successfully completed his work experience. He was offered a permanent position where he continues to learn new skills. Jeffrey is now considering returning to Wilkes Community College to train in diesel mechanics. Because of his hard work, dedication, and successes, Jeffrey was nominated for and selected to receive the Governor's Award of Distinction for Outstanding Young Adult in workforce development.



Destiny

After dropping out of high school in the 10th grade, Destiny enrolled with NCWorks NextGen program with a goal to complete her Adult High School diploma. Destiny enrolled with Mayland Community College and completed her first goal of earning her diploma. In working with her NCWorks Career Advisor and completing some career exploration, Destiny expressed interest in becoming a pharmacist. Destiny was placed with a local employer for a paid work experience opportunity where she spent six-months learning work readiness skills at the local Prescription Pad pharmacy. Destiny plans to continue her education and has enrolled at Mayland Community College to pursue her Associate's degree while she continues to receive career guidance from her Career Advisor.



Heather

As a single mom in her senior year of high school, Heather was referred to NCWorks NextGen by the Mitchell High School Career and Technical Education Coordinator for some additional support to reach her goals. With an interest in pursuing a career in nursing, her first step was to complete her high school diploma and enroll in Nurse Aide training. In working with her NCWorks Career Advisor, Heather received assistance to begin her training and successfully completed high school. Heather received assistance from NextGen for training costs such as tuition and scrubs and also plans to participate in a paid work-based learning opportunity with a local employer to build her work readiness skills. Heather plans to continue her education towards earning her nursing degree.



Austin

Austin came to NCWorks with a goal of improving his financial situation by seeking better employment in order to support himself and his son. After meeting with a Career Advisor, Austin was enrolled in NCWorks NextGen for additional guidance with career exploration and tuition training assistance. Austin began training to earn his Commercial Driver's License (CDL) while also completing a paid work experience with a local employer. Committed to success, Austin worked during the day and trained at night and successfully earned his CDL and gained employment with a local truck driving company.



High Country staff attend NextGen Youth Forum training

Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 64
 - Total Youth Served: 116
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 27
 - Total Smart/Soft Skills Graduates: 14
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 1
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 29
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 52
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 10
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 34
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- The Youth Program Coordinator and the Business Services Manager hosted the third annual Young Adult Hiring event.
 - The Workforce Development Board Director and the Youth Program Coordinator traveled to area schools to share the Virtual Reality Program with students and adults.
 - Youth attended the Henderson Career Center’s first Cyber Hiring Event where participants come to the center and watch live presentations by employers over Zoom on what jobs are available at their business. They are able to interact, ask questions, get registered in NCWorks, and complete an application process.
 - Fall Semester Jump Start/Study Skills workshop for participants.
 - Several regional resource fairs held and attended by youth.

Grant Recipients

Education Data Systems, Inc. (EDSI)	\$300,000
Vance Granville Community College (VGCC)	\$100,000

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$210,063
Total Participant Costs	\$155,075
Total Costs	\$365,138

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$60,387
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	17%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$94,688
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	26%

Success Stories

James

James is an eighteen-year-old Granville County resident. James graduated last June from Granville Central High School. Back in January, he came to the NCWorks Career Center, along with his mother, seeking assistance with finding employment. After enrolling in the NextGen Program, his first activity was to create a resume. Initially, James felt that creating a resume was going to be difficult because he had never held a job before. NextGen staff met one-on-one with James and discovered that he had experience in pet sitting and mowing his family’s yard. Center staff assisted James with putting together a resume that identified work-related skills that he demonstrated while helping his parents and siblings at home. On his resume, James created a list of these skills. After determining that James was "Job-Ready," he was referred to Business Services for a work-based learning opportunity. On February 28th, James began an On-the-Job Training Assignment with Clayton Homes in Oxford as a Home Building Team Member.



Samya

Samya began a Work Experience (WEX) with Carolina Sunrock on June 12, 2023, as a Human Resource Intern. Samya came to the NextGen Program seeking assistance with her job search. After discussing career goals with Samya, staff determined that she would make a good fit for a local work-based learning opportunity. The NextGen Program has been working alongside the HR Recruiter at Sunrock since early May reviewing candidates for a summer internship. In her new role, Samya is responsible for assisting new applicants, supporting the recruiting and onboarding processes, and scheduling onsite interviews.



Timothy

Timothy joined the NextGen program in February this year with the goal of completing CDL training. He had started taking steps to meet this goal when he ran into some personal obstacles and had to postpone training indefinitely to focus on other matters. Timothy did not lose sight of his goals through this time, and when he was ready again, he reached out to his career advisor. Timothy picked up right where he left off previously and was more determined than ever to get his CDL. He graduated from training with his CDL on 10/07/22. Timothy is excited to now be working as a Truck Driver at Variety Wholesalers Inc. in Henderson. When reflecting on all his hard work from the last few months, he said "It was tough, but definitely worth it. I cannot wait to start working".



Staff from one of the local community colleges talking with youth.



Youth Program Coordinator with Job Seeker and Employer sharing information.



Warren County Schools Job Fair – Lou Grillo, WDB Director and Demetrius Johnson demonstrate and walk students through the Virtual Reality Program.

Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 110
- Total Youth Served: 370
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 8
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 23
- Total Smart/Soft Skills Graduates: 55
- Total Youth Who Entered Post-Secondary Education: 19
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 28
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 2
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 78
- Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 21
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 15
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 24

Grant Recipients

Bladen Community College	\$75,710
Partners In Ministry – Richmond County	\$112,256
Partners In Ministry – Scotland County	\$83,462
Scotland County High School	\$27,821
Two Hawk Workforce Services	\$109,259
UNC-Pembroke	\$361,651

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$580,584
Total Participant Costs	\$339,245
Total Costs	\$919,829

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$48,054
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	5%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$277,831
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	30%

Success Stories

Linda

Linda was reared by both parents, but they experienced health issues. The oldest of three children, she had to focus on contributing to the household. She paid various bills, purchased household supplies, and bought clothing for herself as well as family members. Linda was enrolled in Scotland County Schools NextGen Program after the height of the COVID-19 pandemic as a low income, basic skills deficient youth. While participating in financial literacy activities, Linda learned the importance of managing money, so she opened a bank account. She also desired to improve her employability. She immediately began completing pre-employment training activities, including earning the Conover Workplace Job Readiness Credential, participating in Labor Market Information sessions, preparing a resume, and completing financial literacy activities.



Interested in pursuing a career in information technology, she wanted to gain hands-on experience in the field. Linda entered and successfully completed a summer employment activity as a Technology Assistant with Scotland County Schools Technology Department. She learned to set-up computer labs and evaluate, appropriately discard, and repair devices. She acquired and demonstrated skills of reporting to work on time, being attentive, demonstrating initiative, following instructions, completing tasks efficiently and effectively, and interacting with others in a positive manner. The worksite supervisor commended her performance and growth. Linda attended workshops to help her become more marketable, manage her finances, and succeed in the workplace. A Career and Technical Education (CTE) student, she completed the Adobe Academy Pathway and earned multiple National Center for Construction Education Research (NCCER) CTE Industry Recognized Credentials. Linda has also earned the HP Chromebook Service Qualification Certificate as a Genius Bar Technology Student. She is aligned to move into an unsubsidized employment position with Scotland County Schools as a computer technician

responsible for repairing and installing software and troubleshooting various issues.

Nehemiah

Nehemiah grew up without a father in the home. Being the oldest of a single parent family of five, he became a man way before his time, trying to think of ways to help his mother and provide for his siblings. Due to their financial situation, Nehemiah and his family have never had a home of their own and always lived with family members. Regardless of his circumstances, Nehemiah did his best in school and helped his mother with the younger children while she worked. When he became old enough to work he started applying for jobs to no avail, but he was determined. He came to the University of North Carolina-Pembroke (UNC-P) NextGen program seeking employment to help his mom so they could find a home of their own. He received work readiness training and entered a work experience opportunity. Nehemiah successfully completed his work experience and was hired full-time at the end of the contract. His mother has also found them a stable place to live. Nehemiah desires to own a business one day and take care of his mother.



Verkobe

Verkobe's home life was disrupted unexpectedly as his parents separated. Concerned about the emotional impact of the situation in dealing with the separation, Verkobe's mother reached out to her sister for help. After much thought, Verkobe agreed to move in with his aunt and uncle. His ultimate goal was to obtain unsubsidized employment and eventually live independently. Realizing he did not have a strong work history, Verkobe came to the Hoke County NextGen Program seeking employability services. He completed a Work Interest Inventory, developed a resume, and attended interviewing, financial literacy and soft

skills workshops. During his participation, he expressed gratitude for the opportunity to gain valuable work-readiness skills. At the conclusion of the work readiness sessions, Verkobe proceeded to complete job searches and various applications as he was interested in gaining full-time employment. Due to his lack of work history, his ability to find a job was difficult. He was on the brink of giving up until a work experience opportunity with Piedmont Cheerwine Bottling Company presented itself through the NextGen Program. Verkobe attended an interview, impressed the employer, and entered a work experience contract. He successfully completed his work experience and was hired full-time at the end of the contract thereby attaining his work readiness and employment goals.



Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 52
- Total Youth Served: 116
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 32
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 4
- Total Smart/Soft Skills Graduates: 46
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 12
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 5
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 20
- Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 49
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 24
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 38

Grant Recipients

Two Hawk Workforce Services	\$315,000
Equus Workforce Solutions	\$385,000
Harnett County Government	\$286,000

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$393,559
Total Participant Costs	\$183,530
Total Costs	\$577,089

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$61,521
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	11%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$122,009
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	21%

Success Stories

Jade

Jade, a 24-year-old communications major at Fayetteville State University (FSU), came to the NCWorks NextGen program through a referral from her counselor at FSU. Jordan wanted to complete an internship to assist her with completing her degree program but also needed to earn an income to support herself while attending school. The staff at NCWorks was able to place Jordan in a paid internship with a local professional basketball organization to gain skills in marketing and social media management. With the Fayetteville Stingers, she was able to hone her skills learned through her coursework. Jade completed her degree program and was anxious to launch her career. NCWorks was able to place her in an OJT with Fortuna, a local Veteran-owned Business Management Consulting firm where she continues to develop her marketing and communication skills. She increased her earnings from \$12/ hr. as an intern to earning \$20/hr. as a Marketing and Communications Representative. Her role at Fortuna has evolved and she is preparing to be promoted to a new role this fall with the organization. Jade is looking forward to her continued success at Fortuna and loves that she has been able to stay in Fayetteville, contributing to her local community.



Jade is pictured in the blue outfit.

Vaneshia

Vaneshia demonstrates the drive to succeed. At 21 years old, Vaneshia joined the Cumberland County NextGen Youth program as an in-school youth as she began her journey to complete her Associate Degree in Nursing at Sampson Community College. She received comprehensive guidance and counseling through NCWorks NextGen



program by being provided resources regarding workplace best practices, resume and cover letter creation and enhancement, financial literacy education, and labor market research.

After obtaining her CNA I license, she began working as a traveling Certified Nursing Assistant, but she wanted more from her career! She completed her Associate Degree in Nursing in May 2023. She is now working at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in the Psychiatric Emergency Department. Vaneshia is doing very well and is now working to build up her savings. Vaneshia continues to meet challenges head on with determination and resilience. She plans to continue her education in the next several months to further her career. She truly appreciates everything that NCWorks has been able to do to help her achieve her goals and get to where she is now.

Kemoya

Kemoya enrolled with the NextGen program in 2021 as an Out-of-School Youth seeking to earn her Dental Hygiene certification. She was awarded a scholarship and started training in August 2021. NextGen supported Kemoya throughout her entire program, assisting her with tuition and books. Attempts to place Kemoya in work experience in the healthcare field during the pandemic was challenging, however she was able to work in a local bakery as a cake decorator to earn income while attending school. In January of 2022, Kemoya started an On -the Job (OJT) with Douglass Family Dentistry as a Front Office Receptionist with the aspiration of continuing her employment but as a Dental Hygienist once she completed her program. Kemoya graduated with Honors and earned her Associate in Applied Science degree (AAS) in May of 2023. NCWorks NextGen program assisted Kemoya to take the ADEX/CITA required exam in April 2023 and has continued her employment with Douglass Family Dentistry now as a Dental Hygienist.



Briana

Briana successfully obtained her High School Diploma.



Jasmine

Jasmine gained unsubsidized employment after work-based learning opportunity as an Income Maintenance Worker.



Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 64
 - Total Youth Served: 228
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 110
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 58
 - Total Smart/Soft Skills Graduates: 122
 - Total Youth Who Entered Post-Secondary Education: 23
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 55
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 37
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 50
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 63
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 119
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 90
-
- Successful Construction Career Day with over 800 Youth in attendance.
 - Began development of Youth Transportation Program.
 - Goodwill started using TransfrVR equipment purchased for ABTech to train youth.
 - Youth Committee and Work Based Learning Committee members worked on and continue working on setting up more paid work experience and registered apprenticeships, as well as battling barriers.
 - Began development of Goodwill in partnership with Anando Hair Studio Registered Apprenticeship.
 - Henderson County Public School development of assessment started for Registered Apprenticeship at Blue Ridge Community College.
 - Go Places grant of 4.5 million received from United States Department of Labor for 16-24 years of age.
-

Grant Recipients

Goodwill of Northwest NC OSY	\$300,176
Henderson County Schools OSY	\$171,135
Madison County Schools ISY	\$75,439

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$143,452
Total Participant Costs	\$327,476
Total Costs	\$470,928

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$8,197
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	2%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$319,279
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	68%

Success Stories

Abigail

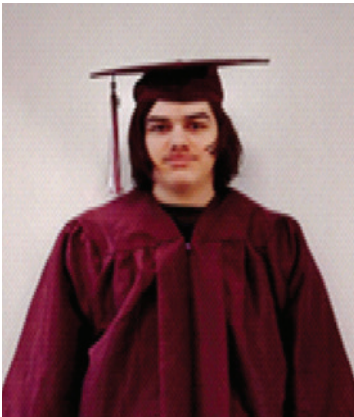
Abigail had been out of school for almost three years and wanted the opportunity to finish her high school credits and earn a diploma. After spending a year in a public school, Abigail decided she needed an alternative path to reach her goal of graduating. At 18 years of age, Abigail and her mom scheduled a meeting with the Graduation Coach at Innovative High School. She needed many classes to graduate and was introduced to the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act. Assigned a Career Coach, she was enrolled in the NextGen program and Innovative High School. Abigail took online and in-person classes through Henderson County Schools. From August 2022 through January 2023, she completed sixteen classes during the first semester making a B or better. She was also enrolled in a paid work experience coming in at 7:30 am as a custodial assistant. She was a very good worker, communicated well, and worked a two week notice before deciding to focus on her classes. She gained confidence and work experience. "In my future I want to go to school for Early Childhood Development, and I want to establish my own daycare. I have always loved helping and taking care of little kids, like my sisters' kids and other



kids I know," said Abigail. After graduation, Abigail will begin an apprenticeship with Western North Carolina Source Children's Services Department and work toward her Child Development Associate credential. She realizes her potential and what she can accomplish when she tries her best. Abigail said, "I believe everyone has potential and can learn from mistakes and improve them. For me this school has done everything they could possibly do for me to be able to graduate. I've learned that if you put your mind to something you can accomplish anything."

Skyler

Skyler came into the Career Academy hoping to receive guidance and support with his academic studies. At the age of 17, Skyler was living on his own trying to be self-sufficient. Due to his overwhelming responsibilities, Skyler was struggling to keep going to school and work part-time. His mental health declined, and he quickly experienced lack of motivation which caused him to fall behind in his studies. He stopped attending school and even moved to a new county hoping to start a new life. Facing several barriers in his life, he still remained firm in his decision to graduate from high school. Reaching this goal would require commitment and dedication. He needed motivation and encouragement to help him. The Henderson County Career Academy connected him to a Career Coach, and together they created the best graduation plan for Skyler. In this plan, there would be a goal for him to complete Work Experience during school so that he could advance in his skills and gain extra income at the same time. Skyler graduated and obtained his high school diploma. He showed responsibility, commitment and dedication to his goals. He continued to strive to do his best in all areas and learned to live on his own, work part-time and attend school. He was awarded several academic recognitions including maintaining a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) with early graduation. Skyler appreciates the support and attention that he received during his last year of high school. He is thankful for the Career Academy and the Workforce program.



Haley

Goodwill's NextGen program is honored to recognize Haley for her accomplishments in the NextGen program. Haley started working with NextGen in the Fall when she wanted to move from the food service industry. She was also seeking assistance to earn her high school equivalency diploma and develop a meaningful career path for the future. She connected with the high school equivalency program at the Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, where she was a motivated and determined student. With the help of NextGen, she received funding to schedule her tests and earned her General Educational Development (GED) diploma in September. After this first accomplishment, Haley had strong momentum to keep moving forward. She expressed an interest in pursuing a career in early childhood education, so NextGen helped her gather information about this career pathway. They looked at training options, examined the job outlook, and developed a plan. In November, Haley began a paid work experience with St. Paul's Preschool where she gained first-hand experience working in the field. She assisted teachers, worked with children ages infant to five, developed lesson plans, and most importantly made sure that this was the right fit for her. She loved the experience, and received praise for being a patient, compassionate, and overall wonderful teacher assistant. As Haley gained confidence that this was the right career path for her, NextGen connected her with the Early Childhood Workforce Development Program through Buncombe Partnership for Children. Through this program, Haley earned 24 hours of training and passed the EDU 119 course. She was presented with an opportunity for full time employment as a teacher assistant at Verner Center for Early Learning. Haley put a tremendous amount of work into accomplishing her goals, and now she's making a positive difference in the lives of young children in her community.



Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 25
 - Total Youth Served: 92
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 5
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 25
 - Total Smart/Soft Skills Graduates: 22
 - Total Youth Who Entered Post-Secondary Education: 2
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 4
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 2
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 11
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 16
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 65
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 34
-
- Held three Employer in the Foyer events partnering with local businesses and College of the Albemarle to provide Youth with opportunities to participate in virtual reality career exploration, speak with employers about related careers, and learn about the training needed to enter the featured careers.
 - Worked with community partners to host five Adulting Day events which integrate lessons on self-sufficiency with career exploration, labor market information, and financial literacy education. Topics were selected by the Youth and included auto maintenance, taxes, self-defense, banking, and first-aid.
 - Hosted our 5th annual Real World Event. Real World is designed to teach young people about real-world skills including budgeting, banking, and social skills. Over 100 Youth attended.
 - Had four participants hired for permanent unsubsidized positions with their Work Experience Host upon completion of their Work Experience.
 - NextGen staff attended over 100 community outreach events.
 - Participated in job fairs at 10 local high schools helping to expose youth to career opportunities with local employers.
 - Facilitated tours for NextGen participants at four colleges within commuting distance of our local area.

Grant Recipients

N/A Services Provided In-House

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$260,672
Total Participant Costs	\$187,546
Total Costs	\$448,218

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$47,593
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	11%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$139,953
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	31%

Success Stories

Nazir

Nazir enrolled in the NextGen program in February of 2018. He was a high school graduate but had not pursued post-secondary education or found meaningful employment. He had a goal of furthering his education at College of the Albemarle and entering either the Automotive or Information Technology (IT) field. Nazir worked with his Career Advisor to explore his strengths and determine which field to pursue through the use of tools like Traitify and review of labor market information. He ultimately decided to pursue a career in IT. Nazir enrolled at College of the Albemarle (COA) in the IT program in the Fall of 2018. Nazir had to contend with various challenges during his enrollment at COA including living 45 minutes from campus and having his laptop fail in the middle of a semester. With the assistance of supportive services from NextGen including mileage reimbursement and the provision of a new laptop, Nazir was able to overcome



these challenges. Nazir excelled in his studies and even made honor roll several times. While attending classes, Nazir also participated in Career Cafes, attended workshops, and worked. He received incentives throughout his participation to encourage him as he took advantage of NextGen program offerings and met his goals and objectives. In May of 2022, Nazir graduated from COA with his Associate of Arts in IT: Computer Programming. Nazir continues to communicate regularly with his Career Advisor during the follow-up portion of his NextGen enrollment in order to receive additional career guidance, and he attended the Real World Northeastern 2022 to speak to the youth in attendance about his experience with NextGen. Nazir is now employed within the community and actively engaged in his role as a husband and father of two children.

Brittnay

Brittnay reached out to NextGen in June 2020 seeking assistance with training to become a nurse. At 19, she lived with her brother while saving for a place of her own. She was employed in a retail job but not earning a living wage and expected she would have to reduce her hours to attend nursing classes. Together, Brittnay and her Career Advisor determined she would benefit from tuition assistance, paid work experience, resume assistance, interview preparation, and soft skills training. She was enrolled in the NextGen program in July 2020 and soon after co-enrolled with the Title I Adult program to receive the needed tuition assistance. Brittnay worked hard during her first year of nursing school. During one meeting with her Career Advisor, she shared that she had fallen in love with labor and delivery and would like to pursue a career in that area of nursing. Her Career Advisor encouraged her to consider a Work Experience through NextGen to help prepare her to accomplish that goal. A few months later, Brittnay began a Work Experience at Albemarle Regional Health. Brittnay's Work Experience allowed her to supplement her income while gaining skills and experience in the field she was training to enter. She received outstanding evaluations from her Work Experience Supervisor throughout her time there. Brittnay completed the Associate Degree in Nursing



(ADN) program in May of 2022. She graduated with a 3.3 Grade Point Average (GPA) and received the Academic Excellence Award which is presented to the student with the highest GPA in the Program. She passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) soon after and officially became a Registered Nurse. Brittnay accepted a position with her work experience host working in the prenatal clinic in July 2022. In December 2022, Brittnay was promoted to Prenatal Clinic Manager.

Jordan

When Jordan enrolled in NextGen in August of 2020, he was a recent high school graduate who had just been placed on probation. Jordan reached out to NextGen at the recommendation of his probation officer to seek assistance with career exploration and post-secondary education. After enrolling in NextGen, Jordan attended workshops, job-shadowed, and participated in a work experience with a local landscaping company prior to narrowing down his career interests and deciding to pursue a post-secondary credential in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC). Jordan enrolled at College of the Albemarle for his HVAC Certificate I in the Fall of 2021. He did not drive and had to rely on family for transportation which posed some challenges, but he managed to maintain excellent grades. Jordan successfully completed his HVAC I Certificate in December 2021, but he didn't stop there. After speaking with his instructor and his Career Advisor, Jordan decided to keep going and complete his HVAC II Certificate as well. He completed his second HVAC certification in May 2022. Jordan also earned his Universal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Certification while enrolled in the HVAC program, and he obtained his driver's license. After completing his training, Jordan was placed in a paid Work Experience with a local HVAC company. When it concluded in February 2023, he transitioned into a full-time unsubsidized position with another local employer.



Northeastern Workforce Development Board
ALBEMARLE COMMISSION
REGION R COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 164
- Total Youth Served: 305
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 126
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 44
- Total Smart/Soft Skills Graduates: 14
- Total Youth Who Entered Post-Secondary Education: 3
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 18
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 46
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 40
- Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 131
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 51
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 124

- 76 incentives awarded

Grant Recipients

Goodwill Industries of Northwest NC	\$1,200,000
Davidson-Davie Community College	\$105,000
Richmond Community Support Center	\$433,782

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$1,074,990
Total Participant Costs	\$289,164
Total Costs	\$1,364,154

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$148,742
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	11%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$384,426
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	28%

Success Stories

Makayla

Makayla came to the NextGen program in hopes of receiving extra guidance and support while obtaining her Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)-Registered Nurse credential (RN). Makayla was enrolled in the NextGen program in November of 2022. Makayla was only 21 years old when she joined the program and had already completed everything but one semester for her RN Degree. Makayla faced a hardship when the college she attended explained that there was no more funding to help support the financial part of the RN Program and that the cost of tuition had tripled. Makayla was denied financial aid due to her living with her parents, and Makayla could only work one day a week due to her college classes and clinical schedule. She had nowhere else to turn to seek help and was provided information for the NextGen Program. The Case Manager supported Makayla with tuition, books, testing fees, and transportation services. Makayla has secured a job as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN); moreover, once Spring 2023 semester is completed, Makayla will be promoted to a full-time Registered Nurse position. Makayla has only been in the program for 6 months and met all of her program goals before the fiscal year ended. Makayla graduated in May 2023 with her Registered Nurse Degree.



Clayton

Clayton dropped out of high school after 10th grade and enrolled in Forsyth Technical Community College's (FTCC) High School Equivalency (HSE) program. However, with three tests down and only two tests to go, Clayton became discouraged when North Carolina discontinued the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) program on August 31, 2020. Clayton didn't know



which way to go after hitting that roadblock. He still wanted his high school equivalency diploma, but it quickly fell to the back burner as other things kept getting in his way. After two years of his making no attempts to obtain his HSE, Clayton decided to put his full attention back on obtaining his diploma.

After hearing from a friend how the NextGen youth program could help him get his HSE, Clayton reached out to his Case Manager and enrolled in the program on November 17, 2022. Not wanting to waste any more time, Clayton was quickly assisted with signing up for the High School Equivalency Test (HiSet) batteries. He easily passed the writing test, reading test, social studies test, and science test on the first attempt. However, the math test proved to be more of a challenge. After two unsuccessful attempts, Clayton received tutoring from his Case Manager. The tutoring session gave Clayton the confidence and boost in skills that he needed and on January 24, 2023, Clayton passed the math test and finally obtained his HSE diploma. All his hard work, perseverance, and tenacity had finally paid off.

Clayton took the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Service Technician Level 1&2 program with Forsyth Tech in spring semester of 2023 and on March 20, 2023, he passed the fourth and final exam needed to receive his HVAC universal certification. NextGen will continue to assist him in his employment search.

Ivania

In August 2019, Ivania enrolled in NextGen for assistance in completing her High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma. As a mother of two, and with English as a second language, she faced challenges. In September 2019, she completed her High School Equivalency credential and earned a Silver Work Keys National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) in October 2019. In the spring of 2022, Ivania began phlebotomy classes while working part-time and was awarded the Governors Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Scholarship. NextGen provided supportive services such as gas cards



and uniforms, and covered exam and state certification fees. Ivania graduated from her phlebotomy class and continued working part-time. Although she struggled with the state board exam, Ivania remained adamant about succeeding and passed the exam in April of 2023. NextGen also provided employment services such as resume, cover letter, and job search assistance. Soon after obtaining her state license, she was offered a full-time position as phlebotomist with Accute Coronary Care Unit (ACCU) Reference Medical Laboratory in Yadkinville, NC.



During this Back to School Kick-off, high school students received career readiness training, an opportunity to meet with Job Coaches and Virtual Reality (VR) representatives, and interview for jobs with Wake Forest.



NextGen of Rockingham County assisted eight allied health students by purchasing Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) supplies and providing monthly check-ins with students to discuss educational and employability opportunities. Six of the eight students received their CNA credential.

Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 69
 - Total Youth Served: 101
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 14
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 4
 - Total Smart/Soft Skills Graduates: 38
 - Total Youth Who Entered Post-Secondary Education: 2
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 8
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 9
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 54
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 13
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 13
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 39
-
- "Made In" (Highlighting Career Pathways and related training and employment) was expanded to include additional employers and programs throughout the five-county region and continues to be a strong marketing campaign to promote high growth manufacturing jobs as well as collaboration and partnerships with community colleges, employers, NCWorks, and economic development agencies.
 - Rivers East Academy continues to focus on training teachers of in-school youth and informing Career and Technical Education (CTE) initiatives. An added focus is to expand the concept and project to include Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult and Family Literacy Title II teachers and programs serving out-of-school youth.
 - Selected for Carolina Across 100, Our State, Our Work project participation to identify and target Opportunity Youth as one of 13 working groups across North Carolina. Leadership teams include community college, economic development, employer, workforce development, school system, and community-based organization representatives. Monthly and bi-monthly meetings connected the team with mental health information, training, and employment resources within the region and state to expand outreach to Opportunity Youth. The Initiative begins the new year with plans for sustainability

- and continued growth and outreach.
- Participated in Xelevate aerospace awareness convention to promote awareness in employment and training opportunities in the aviation field.
 - Participant in Better Skills Better Jobs event promoting Community College, Schools, Workforce Development, Economic Development and training and employment opportunities in Pitt County and the surrounding areas.
 - Career Summit for Bertie, Hertford, and Martin Counties was held at the Hive House/Vitality Center targeting Opportunity Youth and adults seeking employment and training as part of the Carolina Across 100 initiative. Breakfast and lunch were provided along with presentations and demonstrations by Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) Drone and Aviation department, Martin Community College representatives, and several local employers.
 - Throughout the year, NextGen participants participated in a variety of Guidance and Direction for Job Seeker (GADJ) Activities including Reality Check, SMART GOALS soundtrack, Financial Literacy, and others.

Grant Recipients

Career Team	\$844,133
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NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$575,759
Total Participant Costs	\$137,523
Total Costs	\$713,282

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$28,604
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	4%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$167,438
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	23%

Success Stories

Alexis

was enrolled as an In School Youth in Beaufort County. She successfully obtained her credential as a Licensed Practical Nurse from Beaufort County Community College. Upon graduating, Alexis moved to Raleigh, NC, where she is now a private nurse with Intellichoice!



Jonathan

Jonathan, an unemployed Army veteran, enrolled in the NCWorks NextGen Program in hopes to obtain work readiness skills and training to begin a truck driving career. With the help of his Career Advisor, he gained new abilities and enhanced his work ethic. He also enrolled in the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training program at Pitt Community College. He completed his program, obtained his CDL, and now works for Western Express.



Sidaijiah

Sidaijiah had very little employment experience and was unemployed when she connected with NextGen. She was receiving food stamps and parenting a small child with no opportunity to support herself and her family. With the assistance of the NextGen Program, she enrolled in the Nursing Aide I (CNA1) class at Martin Community College. She completed the class, passed her state exams, and received her Certified Nurse Aide I (CNAI) license. She now works for Home Life Care as a CNAI.



Nathan

Nathan was enrolled as an Out of School Youth in Hertford County. He successfully completed CDL Training and obtained his Class A License. Two weeks after obtaining his license, he accepted a position with TransAm Trucking Company and was flown to Texas to begin training!



In Partnership with the Lewiston-Woodville Education Vitality Center, RiversEast WDB and Northeastern North Carolina (NENC) Pathways hosted their first Career Summit offering young people opportunity to learn about post-secondary training and employment opportunities in Hertford, Bertie, and Martin Counties, including the drone and aviation program at Elizabeth City State University.



Rivers East staff and board members participated in Carolina Across 100 initiative with the goal to reach over 500 Opportunity Youth (out of school and out of work) in the region by 2025.

Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 46
- Total Youth Served: 86
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 1
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 2
- Total Youth Who Entered Post-Secondary Education: 1
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 45
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 10
- Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 1
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 40
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 59

Grant Recipients

HIGHTS	\$300,000
Haywood County Schools	\$150,373

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$320,601
Total Participant Costs	\$77,431
Total Costs	\$398,032

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$14,631
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	4%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$96,996
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	24%

Success Stories

Sienna

Sienna arrived in Cherokee County at age 17--homeless, jobless and without a high school diploma. Through the partnership of Bridge Academy of Tri-County Community College and Helping Inspire Gifts of Hope, Trust, and Service (HIGHTS, Inc.) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program, NextGen, she obtained her Adult High School Diploma, found a part-time job and housing, and currently attends college. At the graduation ceremony in May 2023, the college bestowed upon her the newly established Daniel Rattler award for her excellent grades and achievements.



Cheyenne

Cheyenne participated in a WIOA Summer Youth Employment (SYEP) experience with No Wrong Door. Cheyenne is excited about the opportunity to give back to her community and help others. She shares enthusiasm learning about different facets of the non-profit including helping stock the pantry for food items to provide to No Wrong Door participants, answering the phone at the front desk, and learning customer service skills. Cheyenne is 17, graduated with her High School Equivalency diploma from Southwestern Community College (SCC) in June, and has a 19-month-old child.



Gabriel

Gabe completed his high school equivalency diploma and landed a job in security at Angel Medical Center with HIGHTS' support. Due to his accomplishments, Gabe reached his goal to purchase his first car a "Crown Vic".



Brandy

Brandy Ledford, a HIGHTS WIOA Youth participant from Clay County. While obtaining his HSE Diploma, Brandy worked for 26 weeks towards a career path as a funeral director.



Skylar

Congratulations to Skylar Pendergrass for completing her High School Equivalency Diploma! Skylar takes Spanish classes in order to enroll at Western Carolina University. She would like to become a veterinarian.



2023 Graduation Social media post with pic for Tri-County WIOA

Congratulations to all of our 13 WIOA Workforce Graduates who attended Bridge Academy at Tri-County Community College and earned their Adult High School Diploma/HSE Diploma!

Sienna Hartnett, a workforce participant, received the TCCC Daniel Rattler Excellence Award for her perseverance and commitment. Our graduates will pursue careers as paralegals, funeral home directors, Military service, marine biologists, automotive, technology, and veterinarian tech!

HIGHTS is proud of these students for their dedication and hard work to reach their goals and dreams!



Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 93
- Total Youth Served: 234
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 37
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 16
- Total Smart/Soft Skills Graduates: 89
- Total Youth Who Entered Post-Secondary Education: 25
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 38
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 29
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 89
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 84
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 18

Grant Recipients

Opportunities Industrialization Center of Wilson, Inc.	\$279,623
Weldon City Schools	\$79,848
Opportunities Industrialization Center of Rocky Mount, Inc.	\$558,379
Halifax Cooperative Extension	\$92,905
Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA)	\$169,636

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$931,827
Total Participant Costs	\$237,101
Total Costs	\$1,168,928

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$237,101
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	20%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$303,921
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	26%

Success Stories

Da'Kias

Da'Kias enrolled in the NextGen program in Northampton County as an In-School Youth in April 2021. He has shown determination and resilience in pursuing his goal of graduating from High School and entering the workforce with full-time employment. Da'Kias had never worked before and had not chosen a career path. Therefore, he did not have any skilled experience or a chosen career interest. His Career Advisor (CA) assisted Da'Kias through Labor Market Information (LMI) and Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling to develop strong educational goals and discover his desired career pathway. Through leadership and development activities to expand his abilities, Da'Kias assisted with tasks of monthly food bank distributions, attended pre-employment trainings, and gained leadership skills while working with the Town of Woodland as a Maintenance Worker I & II.



While participating in Work Experience (WEX), Da'Kias gained valuable skills and training for work readiness to develop his resume and increase his educational focus. With hard work and determination, Da'Kias conquered the goal of obtaining his High School Diploma from Northampton High School in June 2022. However, he knew his journey was not complete, and he did not stop there. After successfully finishing high school, his Career Advisor assisted Da'Kias with completing job applications, mock interviews, and resume writing. In addition, he attended sessions in leadership, financial literacy, and budgeting. After gaining the assistance needed, Da'Kias applied for and obtained a job with Lowe's Distribution as a Team Member and just recently acquired a better position with Amazon as a Fulfillment Center Warehouse Associate earning \$15.50 per hour! Da'Kias is now a proud high school graduate and a full-time worker who met his goals and objectives. He diligently works with a new goal in mind of providing for his family, making them proud, and successfully growing in his chosen career profession!

Ivan

Ivan enrolled in NextGen in Halifax County, NC, in February of 2022. When Ivan enrolled, he faced barriers that blocked the pathway to success in both education and workforce development. With little work experience and justice-involved challenges, obtaining his High School Diploma and securing full-time employment seemed to present a difficult task. His Career Advisor assisted Ivan in developing a strategic plan in setting educational goals and gaining full-time employment.



Through Leadership and Development Opportunities, Ivan attended pre-employment, soft skills development, and workshop sessions that encouraged successful growth. Ivan received training and development in how to properly dress for job interviews, complete employment applications, practice interview skills, and develop communication skills. In addition, through Adult Mentoring, Financial Literacy, and Labor Market Information, Ivan gained additional skills in career planning, budgeting, and prioritizing educational achievements.

With newfound direction and purpose, Ivan re-engaged himself in academics and further engaged in career exploration. With progress, improvement, and drive, his Career Advisor enrolled Ivan in Work Experience (WEX) to improve work-related skills and build a stronger work ethic. While working for the Town of Enfield, Ivan learned numerous job skills including reading utility meters, operating heavy equipment, and digging sewer lines to service the needs of the town. To expand and develop more, Ivan volunteered as a Youth Counselor with Operation Restart's Summer Camp. Through his growth and development, Ivan was able to achieve his goals and not only graduate from Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy Empowerment Zone as the Class Salutatorian, but also gained employment as a Machine Operator earning a wage of \$15.00 per hour. Ivan proved that through hard work, determination, and guidance any goal can be achieved!

Sha'Kiyia

Sha'Kiyia enrolled in the NextGen program in Rocky Mount in April of 2021. When Sha'Kiyia enrolled, she faced barriers that limited her ability to grow and blocked her pathway to success both developmentally and academically. She experienced social and physical obstacles that dramatically affected her confidence and challenged her ability to learn, communicate, and progress in her studies.



Through her participation in NextGen, Sha'Kiyia's developmental and academic awareness improved rapidly! With a focus on Leadership and Development, Sha'Kiyia learned essential skills that encouraged self-care, leadership, motivation, academic success, and career planning. Sha'Kiyia developed interests in community activities and participated in outreach events, social forums, college tours, and summer activities.

With new expectations, her Career Advisor enrolled Sha'Kiyia in Work Experience to assist in developing more workforce knowledge, skills, and abilities. Sha'Kiyia worked at the Department of Social Services, Bel Air Art Center, and the Office on Aging where she gained career experience from various hands-on tasks, processes, and activities.

With a fresh perspective on educational and career goals, Sha'Kiyia excelled in her academics, graduated with the honor of Co-Salutatorian of the Class of 2023 as second in her class, and became the recipient of several prestigious scholarships in addition to becoming the first graduate in her family with a 4.0 grade point average (GPA). Next, Sha'Kiyia will be attending North Carolina Central University to major in Recreational Therapy! Turning Point NextGen is proud of her achievements and wishes her continued success in the future!



Accomplishments

- Total New Youth Enrollments: 64
- Total Youth Served: 95
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 34
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 7
- Total Smart/Soft Skills Graduates: 11
- Total Youth Who Entered Post-Secondary Education: 15
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 11
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 2
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 20
- Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 30
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 22
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 64

- Held first in-person local Youth Summit since 2019.
- Partnership with J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center to place five work experience participants at their site. Each participant is gaining experience in a field relatable to their career paths, such as Information Technology, Pharmacy, Medical Assisting, Landscaping and Maintenance.
- Partnership with Work in Burke – A new partnership designed to increase youth education attainment and work experience in Burke County.

Grant Recipients

Ross Innovative Employment Solutions	\$892,619
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NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$264,442
Total Participant Costs	\$231,895
Total Costs	\$496,337

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$104,610
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	21%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$127,285
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	26%

Success Stories

Evan

Evan enrolled in the NextGen Youth program as a senior at Hibriten High School, seeking assistance with obtaining work skills to graduate from high school and become an Electrical Lineman. Soon, Evan completed his goal and graduated from high school early. He received guidance with enrolling in the lineman program and stated that he found the program helpful because he was able to stay on track with completing high school and was provided with mentoring to help him transition into continuing his education. Evan graduated high school on January 23, 2023, and will start the lineman program in April 2023.



Jaylen

Jaylen enrolled in the NextGen Youth program as a senior at Hibriten High School seeking guidance with completing high school and preparing for the Lineman Program at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute (CCC&TI). Jaylen wanted to improve his time management skills and gain more independence before he graduated from high school, which he was able to complete. Jaylen stated he felt the NextGen program helped him successfully transition from high school into post-secondary education because his career advisor was able to provide him with instructions on what needed to be done. Jaylen graduated high school early and plans to attend the Lineman Program in April 2023. Jaylen is excited about starting the Lineman program and stated NCWorks has been helpful to him.



Tyler

Tyler came into the NextGen Career Center – Catawba seeking assistance with gaining his Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to advance his career and become a Truck Driver. After working with his advisor, Tyler decided that collaborating with Catawba Valley Community College's (CVCC) – Truck Driving program would be a great fit for him. Tyler states, "This program was a great opportunity and an amazing experience ... the staff at NextGen were so helpful and supportive throughout this whole process. I would highly recommend it to anyone. Thank you, NCWorks!" He graduated from his training program and obtained his CDL on April 17, 2023. Western Piedmont NextGen staff is proud of the accomplishments Tyler has made!



Jonathan completed Driver Training and received his Commercial Truck Driver's License.



Work Experience Interns, Samuel, and Kyla, at J Iverson Riddle Development Center

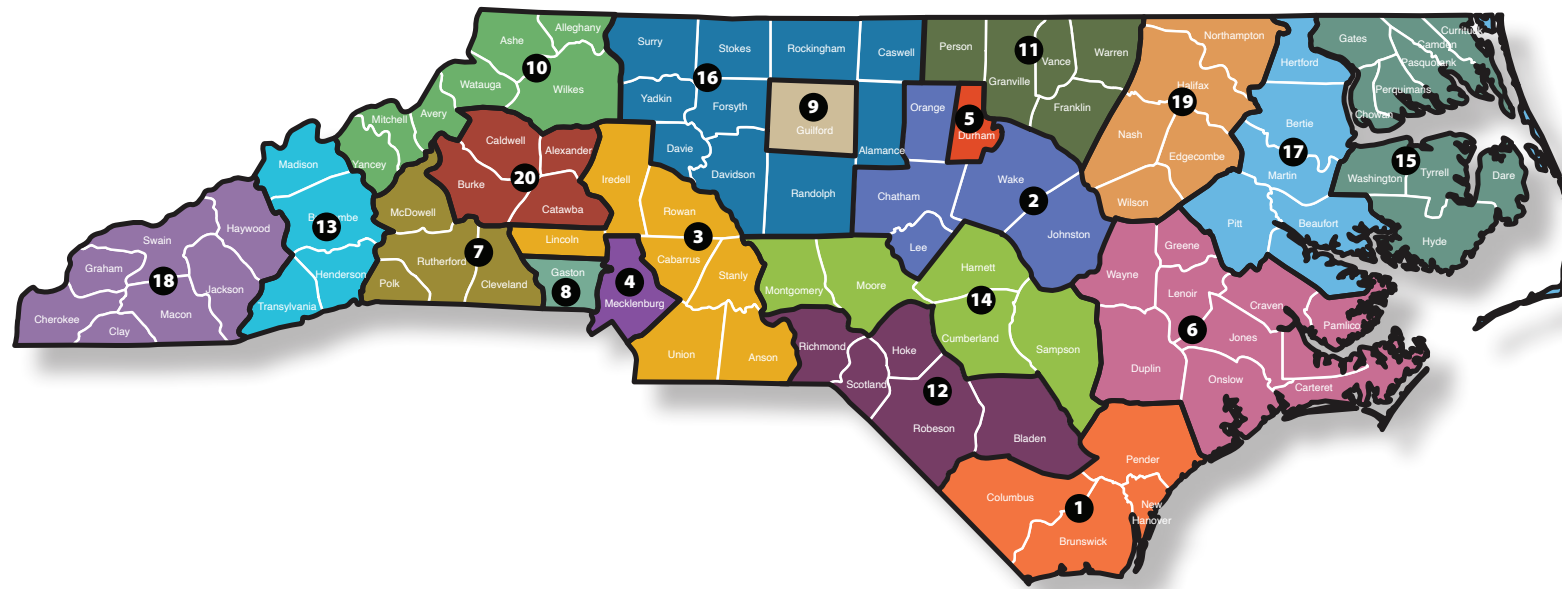


Kevin graduated from St. Stephens High School in May 2023



Samuel, IT and Adaptive Equipment work experience intern

North Carolina Workforce Development Boards



- 1 Cape Fear WDB**
Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, Pender
- 2 Capital Area WDB**
Chatham, Johnston, Lee, Orange, Wake
- 3 Centralina WDB**
Anson, Cabarrus, Iredell, Lincoln, Rowan, Stanly, Union
- 4 Charlotte Works WDB**
Mecklenburg

- 5 Durham WDB**
Durham
- 6 Eastern Carolina WDB**
Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, Wayne
- 7 Foothills WDB**
Cleveland, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford
- 8 Gaston County WDB**
Gaston

- 9 GuilfordWorks WDB**
Guilford
- 10 High Country WDB**
Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes, Yancey
- 11 Kerr-Tar WDB**
Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, Warren
- 12 Lumber River WDB**
Bladen, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland
- 13 Mountain Area WDB**
Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Transylvania
- 14 Mid-Carolina WDB**
Cumberland, Harnett, Moore, Montgomery, Sampson
- 15 Northeastern WDB**
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- 16 Piedmont Triad Regional WDB**
Alamance, Caswell, Davie, Davidson, Forsyth, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, Yadkin
- 17 Rivers East WDB**
Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin, Pitt
- 18 Southwestern WDB**
Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain
- 19 Turning Point WDB**
Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Northampton, Wilson
- 20 Western Piedmont WDB**
Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba



All North Carolina Workforce Development Boards are comprised of at least 51 percent private sector members that represent a multitude of businesses – small local companies to large global corporations. Together with these local businesses, we create a workforce ready to meet the demanding needs of the local area, providing value for the growing economy.

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- Executive Director: Ginger Brick

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- Executive Director: Pat E. Sturdivant

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Durham

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Gaston

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Guilford

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Cary, NC
Rodney.carson@sas.com

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Jflock@magroupusa.net

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Assistant to the President, Advent Health
Hendersonville
Hendersonville, NC
Graham.Fields@adventhealth.com

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Gaffney, SC
dina.simcox@yahoo.com

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jfredrick@rti.org

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Pat E. Sturdivant, Executive Director
Capital Area Workforce Development Board
Raleigh, NC
pat.sturdivant@wake.gov

VICE-PRESIDENT

Wendy Walker-Fox, Executive Director
Piedmont Triad Regional Workforce Development Board
Kernersville, NC
wwalkerfox@ptrc.org

SECRETARY

Jennie Bowen, Executive Director
Rivers East Workforce Development Board
Washington, NC
jbowen@midwestcom.org

NCAWDB

Dr. Stephanie Deese, Executive Director
North Carolina Association of Workforce Development Boards
Raleigh, NC
sdeese@ncawdb.org

www.ncawdb.org



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*For more information about this report,
contact:*

Pat E. Sturdivant, Executive Director

Capital Area Workforce Development Board,
Raleigh, NC
Pat.Sturdivant@wakegov.com
919-856-6048

