



WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT
Youth Program Report
PY 2024

JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025

Report produced and
provided by NCAWDB
Director's Council



CONTENTS



Introduction	5
NC Activity Highlights	6
Accomplishments, Grant Recipients, & Success Stories	8
NC Workforce Development Boards	50
Board Chairs & Directors	52
NCAWDB Officers	54
Thank You To Our Sponsors	55



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:

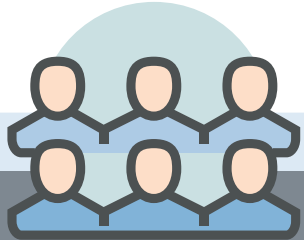
- » education;
- » career pathways;
- » career experience;
- » leadership development; and,
- » wraparound services.

By partnering with local employers and community organizations, NCWorks NextGen ensures that youth not only gain the skills needed for in-demand jobs but also build lasting connections within their communities. Through WIOA funding, the NCWorks NextGen Youth program plays a critical role in shaping the future workforce of North Carolina by preparing young individuals for sustainable careers and fostering economic growth. 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 24¹:

- » **74.0 percent** were employed within six months.
- » **75.1 percent** remained employed after 1 year.
- » **56.4 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



1,740

Total New Enrollments



Total Youth Served

2,898

COST PER PARTICIPANT
\$5,303



High School Equivalencies

259



Work-Based Learning Opportunities

926

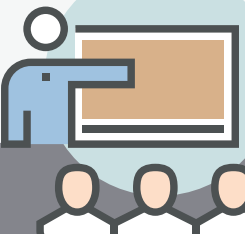
Credentials/Degrees Earned

734



1,115

College Tours/
Post-Secondary Exposure

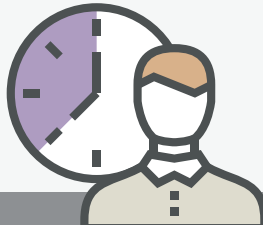


1,020

Enrolled in
Occupational Skills Training

1,023

Entered
Employment



1,041

Working Smart/
Soft Skills Graduates



High School Diplomas

251

Received Supportive Services

1,219



**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 Youth Served: 206
 - Total New Youth Enrollments: 136
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 45
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 23
 - Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 66
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 11
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 50
 - Total Youth Entering Apprenticeship Opportunities: 8
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 78
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 77
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 62
-
- Southeastern Community College hosted the Access to Apprenticeship Open House on November 20, 2024, to introduce parents and high school students to pre-apprenticeship programs. Over 50+ high school students participated in this event from Columbus County Schools. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I program staff shared information with students, parents, and teachers about the program and services that can be offered to students interested in applying for the program.
 - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I staff took part in the annual Manufacturing Day hosted by Cape Fear Community College at the North Campus on November 20, 2024. They hosted a booth to share information with high school students from New Hanover and Pender counties about the WIOA Title I program, including manufacturing training, internship opportunities related to various occupations, and scholarships that provide financial support to help students earn a credential, license, or certification aligned with their career interests. More than 200 students and over 25 employers participated in the event.
 - The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I youth staff conducted the Skills USA Dine and Dive Workshop for high school students at Pender High School

on December 5, 2024. The students were able to learn about the NCWorks Career Center and the WIOA Title I youth program. Parents were able to learn how they can pay for college, after high school and their student participated in paid internship programs their work based learning opportunities. More than 20 students, along with their parents, participated in this workshop.

- New Hanover County high schools hosted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Pre-Employability Workshop at the New Hanover NCWorks Career Center on February 25, 2025. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I youth program and NCWorks Career Center partnered in collaboration with NCWorks Representative, Cape Fear Community College, and University of North Carolina Wilmington's Financial Aid Office. Students from four local high schools, along with their parents, attended the event.

Grant Recipients

Brunswick Community College	\$350,000
Southeastern Community College	\$394,000
Two Hawk Workforce Services	\$530,000

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$490,196
Total Participant Costs	\$231,152
Total Costs	\$721,348

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$285,707
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	40%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$255,494
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	35%

Success Stories

Ana

Ana enrolled in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen Program in April 2024. She enrolled to have assistance with the Nail Technician Course at Brunswick Community College. Ana applied for a scholarship at Brunswick Community College and received it. WIOA assisted her with supportive services for class such as mileage reimbursements, uniform assistance, books/kits, and State Board Exam reimbursements. Ana was referred to WIOA from Samara's Village. When she enrolled, her baby was nine months old. She was able to attend and pass the Nail Technician Course, while also staying home and taking care of her baby. Ana started class in the Fall 2024 and ended the course in February 2025. Ana is scheduled to take her state board exams in May and June 2025.



She enrolled in NextGen because she wants to create a career she loves. Ana and her Career Navigator met and used NCCareers to search manicurist jobs. This made her excited to begin class in September 2024. While juggling being a parent and a busy schedule, she was able to pass the Nail Technician course in February 2025. Once class finished, she had to save money for a couple months, to be able to afford her first State Board Exam. Once she scheduled that first exam, and submitted a reimbursement request, she was able to use the NextGen reimbursment to schedule the second State Board Exam. The Exams are scheduled for May and June 2025. When talking about employment goals with her Career Navigator, Ana told her that she plans to start her own business. NextGen gave her confidence and an opportunity that she did not think she would get this quickly. The Career Navigator gave Ana the information to Brunswick Community College's Small Business Center. This resource will be helpful for her while starting her business.

When she started with NextGen, she truly needed the financial support to get her career going. She was eager to

accomplish her dreams, so NextGen's financial assistance was life changing for her. Ana is a kind-hearted, motivated, and hard working individual. Ana made sure she completed her Conover Assessments in a timely manner. While attending class, the class professor changed a few times. That is challenging when trying to gain knowledge on a certain subject, but that did not stop her. She has been able to juggle being a parent and attending class, so she can have the career of her dreams shows what a hard working individual she is. Ana will make a great business owner one day in the future.

Annette

Annette enrolled in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen Youth Program on May 14, 2024, through NCWorks New Hanover, seeking a pathway to a more secure and fulfilling future. With support from NextGen, Annette enrolled in Miller-Motte College and pursued an associate degree in Business Administration, successfully completing the program in December 2024. During this time, she also participated in a non-summer internship with Eagle Eye Marketing, where she gained real-world marketing experience from September 16, 2024, to February 28, 2025. Her achievements during her NextGen participation set her apart as a driven and determined young adult. She successfully transitioned from an economically challenged background and overcame academic obstacles to reach significant career milestones within a short timeframe. Annette now holds a Business Administration degree, is actively pursuing her bachelor's degree, and is currently employed part-time in the marketing field — all before turning 24.



Between June and December 2024, Annette received WIOA-funded support to attend Miller-Motte College, where she successfully earned her associate degree in Business Administration.

Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 307
 - Total New Youth Enrollments: 203
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 57
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 151
 - Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 177
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 4
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 18
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 124
 - Total Youth Entering Apprenticeship Opportunities: 11
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 69
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 121
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 131
-
- Capital Area Workforce Development (CAWD) expanded its apprenticeship prep efforts by launching two Biopharma training cohorts through funding from Wake County’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) initiative. These youth participated in monthly durable skills workshops, attended career fairs and job shadowing experiences, and completed the BioWork certification through Wake Technical Community College (WTCC). The Fall 2024 cohort trained seventeen youth, with six now employed by major companies including Biogen, Merck, Grifols, and Ajinomoto. The Spring 2025 cohort engaged thirteen Title I high school students. Program participants are now exploring career opportunities in the biopharmaceutical industry, continuing education at WTCC and the Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center (BTEC), and other advanced career pathways at local universities. These efforts represent CAWD’s ongoing commitment to preparing youth for high-growth, high-wage industries in our region.
 - Six of our NextGen participants participated in the Governor’s Page Program in August 2024. This program was developed to inspire a new generation of leaders. During the program, participants took part in the day-to-day tasks of the Governor’s office and gained knowledge in civics, history, service, and professional development. They also had the opportunity to shadow staff of different

- state departments. The NextGen participants left this experience inspired and excited.
- On May 16th, 2025, the NextGen program hosted a Career Exploration Day, engaging young people in exploring diverse career pathways, trade certifications, and educational opportunities available across the CAWD region. The event featured a variety of employers, exhibitors, and local community colleges, along with interactive elements such as a virtual reality career station, the “Dream It. Do It.” industry panels, and the Be Pro Be Proud mobile simulation truck. NextGen staff were also on-site to share information about the program and assist interested participants with enrollment. Both attendees and exhibitors responded positively, highlighting the event’s strong impact and value.
 - On June 27th, 2025, our NextGen program celebrated the incredible achievements of NextGen participants from Wake, Lee, and Chatham counties with a graduation ceremony, where thirty-six participants from the program year were celebrated, and we couldn’t be prouder.

Grant Recipients

Educational Data Systems, Inc (EDSI)	\$1,552,926
Johnston County Industries, Inc (JCI)	\$600,027
Orange DSS	\$184,354

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$1,461,913
Total Participant Costs	\$847,241
Total Costs	\$2,309,154

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$217,050
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	9%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$630,191
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	27%

Success Stories

Corell

Corell joined the NextGen Wake program in June 2023 at age 18, facing major barriers—no General Educational Development (GED), involvement with the juvenile justice system, and recovering from a gunshot wound. Despite the odds, he enrolled in GED classes and earned his diploma by October 2024. He walked across the stage at Durham Tech in May 2025 to celebrate his achievement.



Determined to keep moving forward, Corell enrolled in Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) training and earned his CDL in May 2025. Through the support and encouragement of the NextGen team, Corell has completed his probation, gained two credentials, and secured full-time employment. His next goal is to join the military. Corell’s journey is a powerful example of resilience and growth.

Nash

At just 17 years old, Nash joined the NextGen Johnston program as a high school student living in a high-poverty area—but with a clear vision for his future. Inspired by a local job fair and an introduction to the electrical industry through South River Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Nash set his sights on becoming a Lineworker.



With support from NextGen, Nash graduated from high school with a 3.68 GPA and enrolled in the Lineworker Pre-Apprenticeship Program. He then secured a summer internship with the Town of Selma and later enrolled in the Lineman Program at Nash Community College—all while commuting 54 miles each way and maintaining steady employment.

Demonstrating foresight and determination, Nash independently pursued and earned his CDL license to further position himself for success in the field. He completed the Lineman program in December 2024 and exceeded expectations during a NextGen-supported work experience with the Town of Selma.

In February 2025, Nash began an OJT with the Town of Clayton, continuing to build technical skills, support his community, and prove his reliability and work ethic. He’s still employed with the Town of Clayton after completion of his OJT, a testament to Nash’s drive, determination, and resilience.

Nash’s journey is a powerful example of how NextGen helps young adults turn potential into progress through education, opportunity, and support. His story reflects the program’s impact on strengthening North Carolina’s future workforce—one young leader at a time.



NextGen participants who participated in Governor Page Program, Governor Cooper and NextGen staff in August 2024.



Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 111
- Total New Youth Enrollments: 44
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 16
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 26
- Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 3
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 13
- Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 15
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 42

Grant Recipients

Equus Workforce Solutions \$1,000,224

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$506,217
Total Participant Costs	\$76,785
Total Costs	\$583,002

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$59,660
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	10%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$146,390
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	25%

Success Stories

Diamond

When Diamond first walked through the doors of the NCWorks Career Center-Union, she came with a clear vision: to earn her Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and launch a career in trucking. But what she did not expect was the series of heartbreaking and life-altering challenges that would test her strength and determination at every turn.

Two years earlier, Diamond lost her mother. By the time she

enrolled in the Centralina Workforce Development Board NextGen services, her father had moved into a nursing home. Still, she pressed forward, applying to South Piedmont Community College's CDL program. Unfortunately, the program was on pause, putting her plans on hold.



Then, a car accident caused a back injury. Just one week later, more devastating news came—her father had been diagnosed with both lung and kidney cancer.

Despite the overwhelming circumstances, Diamond's resolve never wavered. With encouragement and follow-up from the NextGen Centralina team, she enrolled in the CDL program at CL Trucking and began classes on February 3, 2025, training Monday through Thursday from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. She quickly earned her CDL permit and was recognized by her NextGen consultant for her dedication, earning a Measurable Skills Gain in the process.

But when her father's health rapidly declined, Diamond made the selfless decision to reduce her training to part-time in order to care for him. After his passing, she was given space to grieve, and CL Trucking worked with her to continue training on Fridays and Saturdays.

Though grief made it difficult to stay engaged, Diamond remained committed. The NextGen Centralina team continued to offer encouragement and support during her darkest days, and eventually, Diamond returned to finish what she started.

Through loss, injury, and emotional hardship, Diamond never lost sight of her goal. Her unwavering perseverance led her to complete her CDL training and step confidently into a new future.

Diamond's story is not just one of personal success—it is a testament to what can be accomplished when determination meets support. The NCWorks NextGen program is honored to have walked alongside her on this powerful journey of resilience and triumph.

Omarion

At just 23 years old, Omarion is already proving that resilience and determination can pave the way to a brighter future. A devoted single father from Cabarrus County, Omarion spent five years working overnight shifts at Walmart to provide for his young daughter while pursuing a better life. Though he previously enrolled in the Automotive Systems Technology program at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, the demands of full-time parenting and night work made it difficult to complete the program. Still, Omarion never gave up on his dream of finding a long-term career in a high-demand field with better working conditions.



That was when he turned to NCWorks Career Center-Cabarrus where he was introduced to the Centralina Workforce Development Board NextGen services. Once approved for sponsorship, Omarion wasted no time. He enrolled at CL Driving School and dove into Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training, completing the program in under a month in May 2025.

Just one week after graduating, Omarion successfully obtained his CDL and quickly landed a job with Tyson Foods, where he began driver training last week.

"Omarion's story is a powerful example of what can happen when determination meets opportunity," said a representative from NextGen. "He came to us with a clear goal and the drive to succeed — our role was simply to help him take that next step."

Omarion's journey highlights the real impact of workforce development programs and the importance of providing support systems for young parents striving for stability and success. Thanks to his perseverance and the resources available through NextGen Centralina, Omarion is now on the road to a fulfilling career with long-term potential.

The NCWorks Career Center – Iredell Statesville, in partnership with Job Corps, made a significant impact at the recent Iredell-Statesville Schools Senior Career Fair, an event designed to connect students and job seekers with career and training opportunities. Held on Tuesday, March 19, 2025, the fair drew a remarkable crowd, including over 450 high school seniors, more than 30 adult job seekers, and 82 local employers.

Among the participants was Tania, Career Development Specialist with Centralina Workforce Development Board NextGen Youth Services, who represented NCWorks with enthusiasm and dedication. Throughout the day, Tania engaged one-on-one with students, sharing information about NextGen's services, which include leadership development, job readiness training, paid work experience, and career exploration. "This event was an incredible opportunity to connect with young people who are preparing to take their first steps into the workforce," Tania said. "Many of them had never heard of programs like NextGen, and you could see their excitement grow as they realized the support that's available to help them succeed."

Students showed strong interest in the resources offered, asking thoughtful questions and expressing eagerness to pursue pathways aligned with their goals. Many left the event with a renewed sense of purpose and clarity about their future options.



(left to right): Wigena Tirado-Job Corps, Tania Jones, NextGen Career Development Specialist NCWorks Centralina, Melissa Harp, Career Advisor NCWorks Centralina, Annisa Morton, Center Lead NCWorks Centralina, and Courtney Ellis-Job Corps

Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 444
- Total New Youth Enrollments: 198
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 112
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 287
- Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 75
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 62
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 66
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 216
- Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 89
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 86
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 130

Grant Recipients

Central Piedmont Community College	\$900,000
MeckEd	\$635,000
Equus Workforce Solutions	\$525,000

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$1,024,242
Total Participant Costs	\$887,837
Total Costs	\$1,912,079

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$317,485
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	17%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$507,379
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	30%

Success Stories

Janyla

When Janyla joined the NextGen Youth Career Pathways Program during her 10th-grade year at Harding University High School, she was seeking more than just a résumé boost—she was searching for direction. Known for being temperamental and quick to anger, Janyla often found herself in conflict at school, struggling to express her emotions constructively. She lacked the space and opportunity to grow, and despite her potential, she needed support to help her channel her energy in a positive direction.



Her journey with the program actually began in spirit a year earlier when she met her career advisor during her 9th-grade year. Though she wasn’t eligible to join at the time, something clicked. “I knew that program would change my life for the better,” Janyla recalled. The moment she was able, she enrolled—committed to taking it seriously even as others around her hesitated.

From the start, Janyla took full advantage of the opportunities available through the program. She participated in Working Smart, where she learned how to manage conflict and communicate effectively in professional settings. She also engaged in Inner Peace sessions, which helped her build emotional regulation and self-awareness. One of the most transformative experiences for her was the college tour, which included stops at UNC Pembroke, UNC Wilmington, and Fayetteville State University. These visits gave her clarity about her future and helped shape her decision-making when it came time to apply for college.

Beyond skill-building, the NextGen Youth Career Pathways Program helped Janyla overcome logistical and personal barriers, including challenges with transportation and access to supportive networks. The staff and mentors not only encouraged her to reach higher but also walked alongside her, pushing her to lead by example and stay committed to her goals.

That commitment paid off in more ways than one. By her senior year, Janyla had grown into a confident, respected leader, serving as Program President. She took the lead in organizing and promoting work-based learning activities—including job shadows and guest speaker sessions—helping her peers stay engaged and inspired.

Graduating from Harding University High School in June 2025, Janyla looks back on her journey with pride. “The program helped prepare me for life, college, and beyond,” she says. This fall, she is set to attend Winston-Salem State University, where she plans to pursue a degree in Business Administration or Social Work—fields where she can lead, serve, and continue empowering others.

Her advice to future students? “Don’t be discouraged. Be yourself. Closed mouths don’t get fed. You have to ask for what you need and want.”

Janyla’s story is a powerful reminder that transformation is possible with the right support, structure, and mindset. Her path from conflict to confidence, from participant to president, is proof that young people can rise when given the tools and trust to lead.

Cameryn

In April 2024, Cameryn enrolled in the NextGen OSY Program at Central Piedmont Community College. The program was a perfect fit to help her overcome unemployment, housing challenges, and legal issues. Upon her arrival, she had a clear goal: to pursue a career in the medical field.



Despite significant obstacles, Cameryn remained focused and committed to her personal and professional growth. After meeting with her Career Advisor to discuss her goals, she was immediately enrolled in the Working Smart soft skills course, along with other college training sessions, to prepare for employment and begin changing her circumstances.

While enrolled in NextGen, Cameryn successfully completed the following courses: Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Phlebotomy, and Electrocardiogram (EKG) training.

The next step was landing a paid internship. After completing an employment screening with the Work-Based Learning Manager, Cameryn was placed in her first Work Experience (WEX), providing in-home caregiver assistance. Although the driving distance wasn’t ideal, she didn’t give up and enjoyed applying the skills she had learned during her clinical training.

When that WEX ended, Cameryn was placed in a second WEX as a medical office assistant. These opportunities enhanced her soft skills and reinforced the training provided by Central Piedmont, preparing her to secure permanent employment.

While Cameryn was working, NextGen funding provided ongoing support, including purchasing specialized healthcare uniforms and non-slip shoes. NextGen also issued gas cards to assist with transportation costs and contributed to her rent, allowing her to remain in her apartment. Cameryn also received a résumé refresh and interview coaching to support her job-seeking journey.

Her determination and hard work led to a major milestone. On February 24, 2025, Cameryn was hired as a CNA at Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center.

“Cameryn’s journey is a true example of perseverance and self-motivation. She continued her education and stayed dedicated to her goals,” says her Career Advisor. “We are proud to celebrate her success and look forward to seeing what she accomplishes next.”

Cameryn plans to continue advancing her career at Novant as she completes training to become a Medical Assistant.



Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 61
 - Total New Youth Enrollments: 12
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 4
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 11
 - Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 14
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 3
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 12
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 11
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 13
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 10
-
- Expanded Partnership with Kittrell Job Corps: A collaborative relationship was established with the Kittrell, NC Job Corps campus to support Durham County youth returning home. This partnership has provided career services, occupational training, and work experience opportunities tailored to their transition needs.
 - Career Readiness Support with Durham Public Schools (DPS): Mock interviews and résumé revision workshops were conducted at four Durham Public Schools as part of the pre-event preparation for the annual DPS Senior Resource Fair. These efforts helped students enhance their job readiness and presentation skills.
 - Active Participation in the DPS Senior Resource Fair: An engaging information session on the NCWorks NextGen Program was delivered during the Senior Resource Fair. Staff supported graduating seniors in exploring career paths, apprenticeship programs, and local training providers.
 - Community Engagement with Durham Housing Authority (DHA): Staff participated in multiple youth-focused events hosted by the Durham Housing Authority, including a Youth Career Fair and the Fun Friday event series. These outreach efforts increased visibility and access to services for youth in DHA communities.
 - Strengthened Partnership with H.E.A.R.T.S.: This partnership has created pathways for young parents to build employability skills through work experiences,

- workshops, mentorship, and referrals to work-based learning opportunities.
- Broadened Engagement with Durham County East Regional Library's Teen Services Department: Collaboration with the Teen Services Department expanded youth access to educational and career resources. It created opportunities for NextGen participants to learn how the library can support them with résumé building, job search databases, General Educational Development (GED) prep materials, access to computers and printers, and information about local support services.
 - New Partnership with Joyoushout & Stand Up Speak Out of NC (SUSO): This inspiring session provided youth with space to share their personal journeys of career growth and healing, and to create vision boards for future goals.

Grant Recipients

Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc.	\$300,000
---------------------------------	-----------

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$158,110
Total Participant Costs	\$29,142
Total Costs	\$187,252

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$18,064
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	10%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$55,772
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	30%

Success Stories

Lecaia

Lecaia has truly been a bright and pleasant spirit throughout her journey. From the very beginning, she radiated positivity—even when faced with challenges. Her resilience and upbeat attitude made her a joy to work with and a genuine inspiration to her peers and Career Coaches alike.



Despite navigating tough situations, Lecaia never lost sight of her goals. Her determination to succeed in both educational and professional development has been nothing short of admirable. Most recently, she reached a major milestone by graduating from the W.A.R. Memorial Nurse Aide I Training Academy as a Certified Nurse Aide. To everyone's delight, she received an award for being the "Youngest student to enroll & fight to finish the course!"

At the same time, she began her work experience at Spring Valley Living LLC, confidently stepping into the healthcare field with purpose and determination.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen Youth Career Coaches are proud to support Lecaia on her journey and are confident she will be a living testimony to the saying: "You can do anything you put your mind to."

Kambria

Kambria has been a devoted participant in the NextGen Program for nearly a year. She exemplifies the power of patience and perseverance. Throughout her time in the program, Kambria remained focused and committed—trusting the process, working hard toward her goals, and continuing to support her family.

Her calm determination and quiet strength have left a lasting impression on both her training provider and Career Coach. At the end of April, Kambria proudly graduated from the W.A.R. Memorial Nurse Aide I Training Academy—an incredible milestone on her path to a fulfilling career in healthcare. Now,

she's eager and ready to begin her journey as a Nurse Aide. She's expressed excitement about growing in the field and is fully prepared to put in the effort to succeed.

Way to go, Kambria — your future is just beginning, and we're cheering you on every step of the way!



Madison

Madison has been a joy to support through the NextGen Program. Her kind nature, intelligence, and unwavering determination have stood out from the beginning. Madison demonstrates that asking for help is a strength—and this mindset has helped her build a strong, consistent connection with her Career Coach while staying on track toward her goals.

Thanks to her dedication and hard work, Madison graduated from NC Dental U as a Dental Assistant I. In addition to her main certification, she earned several others—showing her commitment to excelling in a field she's truly passionate about.

Madison is well on her way to long-term growth and professional success in the thriving dental industry. Her confidence, persistence, and caring spirit will undoubtedly carry her far.

The NextGen team is incredibly proud of Madison and excited to see all that she will accomplish. Wishing her the very best in this new and exciting chapter!



Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 239
 - Total New Youth Enrollments: 107
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 40
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 59
 - Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 77
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 5
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 29
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 55
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 119
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 73
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 83
-
- Eckerd Youth Alternatives hosted its first NextGen Career Launchpad: A Virtual Recruiting Event in May 2025. Twenty individuals actively participated in the orientation session. Future events are being scheduled, with plans to implement the NextGen Career Launchpad throughout the region.
 - NextGen participants toured the Aerospace Advanced Manufacturing Center (AAMC) at Lenoir Community College to explore the Industrial Systems Technology program. This program allows students to build foundational technical skills in print reading, maintenance, electricity, and hydraulics. Afterward, students choose to specialize in either Computer-Integrated Machining or Industrial Systems Maintenance.
 - Twenty-three NextGen youth participated in Financial Literacy Training.
 - Wayne Community College hosted the NextGen Business Breakthrough, a dynamic youth business event aimed at inspiring and equipping the next generation of entrepreneurs. Participants attended engaging sessions focused on two essential areas: Social Media Marketing and developing an Entrepreneurial Mindset. They also participated in a live Q&A session with local entrepreneurs and received direct mentorship from established business leaders. Featured guest speakers shared their personal journeys to becoming successful

- entrepreneurs and provided expert insights on leveraging digital platforms to build and grow a business presence.
- Eleven NextGen youth participated in various Leadership Development activities.

Grant Recipients

Carteret Community College	\$243,426
Coastal Carolina Community College	\$176,245
Eckerd Youth Alternatives	\$352,988
Lenoir Community College	\$304,948
Wayne Community College	\$206,100

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$773,485
Total Participant Costs	\$477,150
Total Costs	\$1,250,635

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$147,453
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	12%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$329,696
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	26%

Success Stories

Gracie

Gracie's story is one of perseverance, determination, and the power of opportunity. A former foster child, she faced significant challenges growing up, yet she never lost sight of her dreams. When she enrolled in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen Youth Program in August 2023, she was determined to build a future in the healthcare field.



Through NextGen, Gracie received support to complete her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA I) certification. With a passion for patient care and a drive to further her career, she set her sights even higher. Encouraged by her success and the guidance she received through NextGen, she applied and was accepted into the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program at Coastal Carolina Community College.

Throughout her journey, NextGen provided Gracie with essential career development services, including résumé building and interview preparation, ensuring she was fully prepared for the next step in her professional journey. Her hard work and dedication paid off—Gracie received two job offers in the nursing field and successfully graduated from the ADN program in May 2025.

Alejandro (Alex)

Alex, age 21, is bilingual in Spanish and English and has shown exceptional dedication to academic achievement since starting his journey at Lenoir Community College (LCC). He entered the Early College program but left before his senior year in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Facing significant financial challenges, Alex worked as a server at IHOP, training new hires and honing valuable communication skills. During this time, he made the life-changing decision to complete his high school education so he could attend college and pursue a career in law. He enrolled in the Transitional and Career Studies Hybrid Program in June 2023 and earned his High School Equivalency (HSE) certificate in August.

While studying for his HSE, Alex joined the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen Youth Program in July 2023. Upon graduation, he enrolled in the Criminal Justice Technology Associate in Applied Science program at LCC, with plans to transfer to a four-year college to earn a Bachelor's degree in Political Science.

A straight-A student, Alex was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society after his first semester. He graduated with a 4.0 GPA and High Honors in May 2025 and received the esteemed 2025 Dallas Herring Achievement Award

during graduation. He served as president of the NextGen Club at LCC and was a senator in the Student Government Association, while completing two work experiences.

Alex has been accepted into the Political Science program at UNC Chapel Hill, where he will begin studies in Fall 2025. He shared, "The NextGen program has given me the necessary resources to be able to focus on my studies and to succeed in every aspect of achieving higher education."

Dereck

Dereck, a 17-year-old high school graduate, encountered challenges entering the workforce as a Spanish-speaking youth with limited experience. Determined to pursue a career in the construction industry, he sought support through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen Youth Program.



He enrolled in NextGen in December 2024 and, with guidance from his career advisor, began the six-week Construction Basics course at Coastal Carolina Community College. Throughout the program, Dereck gained essential skills, industry knowledge, and hands-on experience that prepared him for employment in the construction field. In addition to training, Dereck took full advantage of NextGen's career readiness resources, participating in financial literacy workshops, résumé-building sessions, and interview skills training. These opportunities helped equip him with the tools needed for professional success.

Originally slated to transition into an on-the-job training (OJT) opportunity, Dereck impressed the employer so much during the hiring process that he was offered a position on the spot. His dedication and preparation paid off, securing direct employment in the construction industry.



Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 64
 - Total New Youth Enrollments: 39
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 25
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 18
 - Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 16
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 11
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 7
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 28
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 20
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 49
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 91
-
- Job Fair at RS Central High School
 - Making It Work Engineering Competition – 1 from middle school and 1 from High School
 - Career Fair at Isothermal Community College
 - 71 Measurable Skills Gains
 - Collaboration with the Rutherford County Resiliency Coalition to serve youth

Grant Recipients

Ross Innovative Employment Solutions	\$374,000
--------------------------------------	-----------

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$205,271
Total Participant Costs	\$127,435
Total Costs	\$332,706

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$175,016
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	53%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$142,270
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	43%

Success Stories

Katelynn

Katelynn is a recent graduate of McDowell High School, where she distinguished herself as a top-performing student. Her strong academic performance allowed her to complete her high school requirements ahead of schedule, enabling her to forgo classes during her final semester. During this time, Katelynn took the opportunity to participate in a Work Experience (WEX) placement through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen Program. She was placed at the Corpening Memorial YMCA in Marion, where she quickly became an invaluable part of the team. Her work ethic, maturity, and dedication have not gone unnoticed—so much so that her supervisors have expressed interest in ending her WEX early so they can bring her on as a permanent employee. While Katelynn does have long-term plans to attend college, her current focus is on working and supporting her family. She plays a vital role in helping care for her younger brothers while her mother is at work, balancing responsibilities at home with her professional growth. Katelynn's drive, compassion, and commitment to excellence make her a standout young adult with a promising future ahead.



Judah

At 22, Judah was determined to create a better future for himself. After searching for employment and exploring ways to grow, he decided to take a bold step toward his dream career as an electrician. With a strong desire to succeed, Judah enrolled in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen Program and secured a Work Experience (WEX) placement with KB Wilson Electric, a local electrical company in Marion, NC.



Armed with multiple certifications, Judah was well prepared to take on the challenges of the trade. Now, three weeks into his placement, he's already making a significant impact. The team at KB Wilson Electric has expressed how much they appreciate the valuable assistance he's provided, and Judah is well on his way to building a successful career in the electrical field. We are incredibly proud of Judah for taking full advantage of the resources available through NCWorks. By embracing this opportunity, he's not only setting himself up for success but also laying the foundation for a rewarding career. Judah's dedication and commitment to his future serve as an inspiring example of how hard work and determination can lead to great things.

Jesse

In the fall of 2024, NCWorks Career Advisors joined forces with the Rutherford County Resiliency Coalition, a grassroots network of organizations committed to empowering and supporting local youth. These collaborative meetings sparked a meaningful partnership between WIOA and Blue Ridge Hope, a nonprofit organization that offers vital mental health resources and youth-centered programs in the county. This collaboration represents a significant step toward aligning workforce development with youth resiliency initiatives in Rutherford County. By integrating supportive services with career readiness opportunities, both organizations are helping to create a more comprehensive approach to youth development.

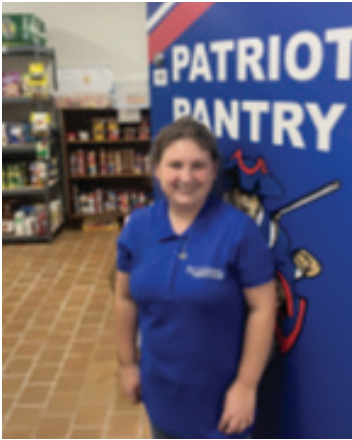


One exciting outcome of this partnership is the work experience provided for Jesse, a student at Reach Early College High School. Through the WIOA NextGen Youth Program, Jesse now serves as a Program Assistant for Blue Ridge Hope's middle school youth program. Her role not only supports the nonprofit's mission but also equips her with valuable job skills and professional experience in a nurturing environment.

Together, NextGen, Blue Ridge Hope, and the Rutherford County Resiliency Coalition are creating real opportunities for local youth to thrive, both personally and professionally.

A Student's Role in Fighting Hunger Insecurity

Breanna came to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen Program with a clear goal: to gain meaningful work experience while making a positive impact in her community. When the opportunity arose for her to serve at the Patriot Pantry (Isothermal Community College's on-campus food pantry), Breanna was eager to contribute.



The Patriot Pantry plays a vital role at Isothermal Community College (ICC), providing food and personal care items to students facing food insecurity. Many students struggle to meet their basic needs while pursuing their education, and the pantry helps remove that barrier to success. Recognizing the importance of this service, the College Readiness Director partnered with NextGen to create a placement opportunity that would both support the pantry's operations and offer valuable experience for a student like Breanna.

Work Experience (WEX) Partnership with Badger Welding

Badger Welding is a locally owned, professional metal fabrication company. Their motto, "Aggressive on quality, since 1985," is evident in the exceptional work produced in their shop in Rutherfordton NC. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen is proud to partner with Badger, providing meaningful work experience for emerging welders entering the field like Taylor.



Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 34
- Total New Youth Enrollments: 10
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 9
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 107
- Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 28
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 2
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 1
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 1
- Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 8
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 9
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 15

- Conducted outreach at multiple high schools within Gaston County
- Established partnership with Warlick Academy
- Formed partnership with Cathy Mayberry Domestic Violence Shelter
- Developed partnership with Crisis Pregnancy Center
- Attended the Washington Ministries Tour/ outreach
- Participated in local area career fairs
- Participated in various community outreach events
- Presented NextGen services during the Basic Skills Student Success Class Sessions and Adult High School Orientations at Gaston College

Grant Recipients

Two Hawk Workforce Services \$236,856

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$125,708
Total Participant Costs	\$34,336
Total Costs	\$160,044

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$20,502
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	13%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$13,834
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	9%

Success Stories

Celestial

Celestial is a dedicated and resilient individual who faced the challenge of being under-employed. Despite her hard work and determination, she struggled to find stable, fulfilling work that could provide her with financial stability and career satisfaction she sought. After working a low-wage job that didn't align with her passions or long-term goals, Celestial realized she needed a change. That's when Celestial turned to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen Program, which became a transformative part of her journey. With the guidance and support of NextGen, she enrolled in the Phlebotomy program at Gaston College.



During her time in NextGen, Celestial encountered challenges. However, with the help of her WIOA case manager, she navigated the hurdles of balancing schoolwork, life commitments, and financial concerns. The NextGen Program provided Celestial with financial assistance for tuition, textbooks, and fees, which relieved the financial stress that might have otherwise held her back.

After completing her phlebotomy program, Celestial was ready to begin job searching. Her WIOA case manager helped with her resume, as well as job leads, equipping her to land a job in her new field. Celestial landed a job at Ked Plasma, a leader in the blood donation and plasma collection industry. As a phlebotomist, she would be able to utilize her new skills in a stable and rewarding role, earning competitive wages and working in an environment where she feels valued and fulfilled.

Celestial's success story is a powerful reminder of the impact that the NextGen Program can have on individuals looking to change their careers and improve their lives. With the right support, determination, and a willingness to learn, Celestial overcame her challenges and is now thriving in her new career. She is self-sufficient, financially stable and ready for future opportunities in the healthcare industry.

Michaela

Michaela is a determined radiology student at Cleveland Community College. From a young age, Michaela was fascinated by the human body and technology, leading her to pursue a career in radiology.



Michaela joined the NextGen program in December 2023, with the goal of becoming a radiologic technologist. The path has not always been smooth. Balancing rigorous coursework with personal commitments tested Michaela's resilience. There were moments of self-doubt, especially during challenging exams and clinical rotations. However, Michaela found inspiration with the help of her case manager and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen program!

Michaela is determined to prove that one can overcome challenges and achieve success by maintaining resilience and discipline. We have no doubt that Michaela will successfully complete her training and secure a position within the dynamic field of radiology.

Michaela's journey is a testament to the power of perse-

verance and the support provided by WIOA NextGen Youth program. She described her experience in her training and the program as "Definitely worth it".

Trinity

Trinity reached out to NextGen after initially being introduced to the program at the age of 17 by her mother. Trinity also wanted the same success her sisters achieved previously in the NextGen program. She initially wanted to pursue a paralegal or accounting program. Trinity then realized she would love to join the pharmacy technician program at Gaston College. With the guidance and support of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen, she enrolled in college.



During her time in the NextGen program, Trinity faced many of the challenges typical for a student beginning college. With determination and support, she overcame each hurdle. Thanks to financial assistance from the NextGen program—covering tuition, textbooks, and exam fees—Trinity was able to ease the financial strain that could have otherwise become a significant barrier to her success.

After successfully completing her Pharmacy Technician program at Gaston College, Trinity began her job search. Her then advised Trinity of a work experience (WEX) opportunity. Trinity received resume assistance, job leads, and interview preparation so she could be ready to secure employment in her new field. Trinity decided to apply for jobs on her own and secured a position at a local CVS pharmacy as a Pharmacy Technician full time with benefits! As a Pharmacy Tech, she would be able to utilize her new skills in a rewarding role, earning competitive wages and working in an environment she enjoys.



Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 85
 - Total New Youth Enrollments: 78
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 7
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 13
 - Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 50
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 1
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 27
 - Total Youth Entering Apprenticeship Opportunities: 5
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 15
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 33
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 19
-
- GuilfordWorks NextGen partnered with Guilford County Schools and HondaJet to host a Virtual Reality (VR) Career Exposure field trip at HondaJet. This allowed youth to use VR equipment to gain exposure to various career paths.
 - GuilfordWorks NextGen partnered with She Built This City to expose youth to the skilled trades and enrolled three participants in a pre-apprenticeship program. We are working to get She Built This City's program added to the Registered Apprenticeship list with Apprenticeship North Carolina to expand opportunities in the skilled trades.
 - GuilfordWorks NextGen hosted an event with training providers to help youth explore careers and make informed decisions about their future career choices.
 - Program representatives attended the City of High Point Career Day, interacting with high school seniors and employers to promote postsecondary career pathways and employment opportunities.
 - GuilfordWorks NextGen hosted a Vision Board Workshop, guiding youth in setting personal and career goals to encourage intentional planning and self-awareness.
 - Presentations were delivered at local high schools and community organizations to share program information and promote access to VR career exploration tools. Career pathway examples included Commercial Driver's License (CDL), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and Carpentry.

- The program presented at the Evangel Fellowship Church Youth Summit, engaging local youth, community leaders, and employers. Activities included program overviews, eligibility screenings, mock interviews, and hands-on VR experiences via the mobile unit.
- GuilfordWorks NextGen facilitated Career Readiness Workshops that included financial literacy sessions, résumé-building toolkits, and interview preparation activities to enhance job readiness for youth and young adults.

Grant Recipients

Ross Innovative Employment Solutions	\$443,685
--------------------------------------	-----------

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$632,533
Total Participant Costs	\$107,252
Total Costs	\$739,785

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$50,664
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	7%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$123,364
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	17%

Success Stories

Micah

Micah, who is passionate about business and finance, is an in-school youth enrolled in our NextGen. Currently pursuing a degree in Business Finance, Micah joined the program to gain real-world work experience and begin laying the groundwork for his future career.



From the moment he interviewed, Micah made a powerful impression. His professionalism, confidence, and drive led to his being personally selected for a competitive position as the Administrative Assistant to the City of Greensboro's Facilities Coordinator. In this role, he is gaining firsthand experience in the operational and financial processes that support local Parks and Recreation centers.

This opportunity is giving Micah more than just job experience—it's providing him with meaningful mentorship and a deeper understanding of the financial systems that keep local government services running. His worksite supervisor recognized his potential immediately, citing his strong interview skills, grit, and professionalism as key reasons for selecting him for the role.

Micah brings energy, purpose, and a hunger to learn to everything he does. He's a shining example of Black excellence in the making, and we're proud to support him as he continues building toward a successful career in business and finance.

Miracle

Originally from Georgia, Miracle relocated to North Carolina in 2018 in pursuit of new opportunities for herself and her two children. With a background in healthcare, she entered the NextGen in May 2025, seeking to expand her skills in communications, service, and administration.



Miracle was placed at the YWCA Greensboro through a Work Experience (WEX) opportunity, where she quickly proved herself to be an invaluable asset. In her role, she has supported a variety of impactful community programs, including the Emergency Family Shelter, Teen Parent Mentor Program, and the Healthy Moms and Healthy Babies Program.

Beyond program support, Miracle also manages front desk operations, serving as the first point of contact for every individual who enters the facility. Her warm presence, professionalism, and attention to detail have left a lasting impres-

sion on staff and visitors alike.

She is known for her outstanding dedication, reliability, and strong work ethic. Miracle has become a vital part of daily operations at the YWCA, and her commitment to community-focused service continues to inspire those around her. The NCWorks NextGen team is proud to support Miracle on her journey as she continues developing her skills and making a meaningful impact in the community.



Jaden, Melissa, and Nya all completed a nine week program from She Built This City, earning a certification to enter the construction industry, while also earning an OSHA-10 Certification and First Aid /CPR certifications



Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 79
- Total New Youth Enrollments: 41
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 27
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 34
- Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 61
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 1
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 7
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 21
- Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 38
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 43
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 26

- Ongoing engagement in middle school and high school career fairs and exploration events
- Participation in multiple Back-to-School events to share information with families and partners
- Attendance at community college open houses and student orientation sessions
- Participation in a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) event, providing an interactive session for students

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$382,779
Total Participant Costs	\$61,777
Total Costs	\$390,556

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$15,971
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	4%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$91,305
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	23%

Grant Recipients

Goodwill Industries of Northwest North Carolina	\$220,000
Mayland Community College	\$240,000

Success Stories

Conner

Conner was referred to the NCWorks Career Center at age 17, having just completed his high school diploma and seeking guidance on his next steps. Living with his grandparents, he had been participating in THRIVE Appalachia, where he was introduced to local artists who sparked his interest in the arts.



THRIVE—Together Hope Rises with Innovation, Vision, and Education—connects youth with life-changing apprenticeships, working alongside master craftspeople and world-class artists. Through a partnership with THRIVE, Conner secured an internship at Hearth Glass and Gallery in Burnsville via NextGen services.

After successfully completing his internship, Conner was hired by Hearth Glass, where he continues to hone his skills with the goal of becoming a master glassblower. He is thriving in his role and, for now, plans to continue pursuing his career path at Hearth Glass and Gallery.

Charles

Charles enrolled in NextGen seeking career and educational guidance. In partnership with the Adult Education program, he dedicated himself to attending classes and studying diligently, which led to the completion of his Adult High School Equivalency Diploma. He also co-enrolled in a culinary class, where he earned his ServSafe certification.

His interest in the culinary field led to an internship opportunity at Smithmore Castle, where he gained valuable hands-on experience in the industry while receiving career guidance from his Career Advisor. Through NextGen services, Charles received supportive services, incentives, and a paid internship.



He is now exploring his next steps, working at a local restaurant and considering enrollment at the community college to continue his education.

Alexis

While attending Mayland Community College, Alexis enrolled in NextGen to pursue and complete her training as a dental assistant. To gain hands-on experience, she participated in an internship through NextGen, where she developed valuable skills related to workplace readiness and working directly with customers in a professional environment. She is now employed and will continue receiving follow-up services from her Career Advisor.



Abigail

Abigail took advantage of the many services offered by NextGen, including participation in work-based learning, where she developed strong communication skills as a Marketing Assistant. Upon completion, she began her educational pathway alongside her Career Advisor



with the goal of completing the Physical Therapist Assistant program. Dedicated to her studies, Abby graduated from Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute in spring 2025 and began employment with a local healthcare provider.

Gabe

Gabe visited NCWorks in search of employment while working to overcome several recent barriers. Having recently obtained his commercial driver's license, the NextGen Career Advisor connected him with a local employer interested in hosting young adults to gain experience and train in trade skills. Gabe was placed at B&C Concrete, where he has excelled and acquired valuable skills that support his journey toward securing future employment.



Access to Achieve Partnership

NextGen began a new partnership this year with the Access to Achieve program, housed at Wilkes Community College. Designed to support individuals with disabilities and provide life and work readiness skills, five young adults were co-enrolled to receive additional support from NextGen services. Of those, three participated in a hands-on, paid work experience opportunity at local organizations. Participants gained valuable life skills and continue to develop their employment and educational goals.



Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 59
 - Total New Youth Enrollments: 41
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 11
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 1
 - Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 9
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 1
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 7
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 15
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 11
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 22
- "NextGen Tuesdays," launched in PY24, provides weekly 30–45-minute group sessions designed to empower youth and young adults. These sessions deliver essential information about the NextGen Program, its expectations, and the required enrollment documents. Participants also engage in practical career readiness workshops, including résumé writing, mock interview skills, and professional attire guidance. Beyond structured learning, NextGen Tuesdays fosters a supportive environment for peer mentorship, allowing current and past participants to share valuable insights, successes, and challenges encountered on their career pathways.
- Each April, the annual Young Adult Hiring Event (YAHE) is proudly hosted—a vital opportunity that connects employers in the Kerr-Tar region with young talent from all five counties. The primary aim of this dynamic event is to promote valuable local employment for high school juniors and seniors. The general public is also welcome during designated hours to explore job openings and engage with potential employers.

Grant Recipients

Educational Data Systems, Inc. (EDSI)	\$350,000
Vance Granville Community College (VGCC)	\$50,000

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$328,363
Total Participant Costs	\$100,147
Total Costs	\$428,510

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$11,591
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	3%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$88,556
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	21%

Success Stories

Lunden

Lunden arrived at NCWorks Career Center with a clear objective: to gain hands-on experience and launch a career in the Information Technology field. Motivated to succeed and eager to learn, he was connected with the Program Manager for the NextGen Program. Recognizing his potential, the Program Manager promptly enrolled him in the program.



With a solid understanding of Lunden's career goals, the Program Manager partnered with the Business Services Representative (BSR) to identify local Information Technology (IT) work-based learning opportunities. Although the region offered limited IT openings and faced early setbacks with traditional employer contacts, the BSR remained persistent. He reached out to Cyberplex Technologies—a company not previously involved with the program—to explore a potential collaboration.

After reviewing Lunden's résumé, the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Cyberplex Technologies agreed to offer him an opportunity. From day one, Lunden stood out for his dedication, adaptability, and eagerness to learn. As the

COO mentored him throughout the training period, it quickly became clear that Lunden was more than just a promising trainee—he was a valuable team member.

By the end of the work-based learning experience, the COO offered Lunden a permanent position with Cyberplex Technologies.

Destani

Destani, a recent high school graduate, joined the NextGen program at NCWorks on June 11, 2025. Shortly after enrolling, she began a Work Experience (WEX) placement at Flex Desk 360 on July 7, 2025. Her WEX assignment is scheduled to conclude on August 1, 2025.



Throughout her time at Flex Desk 360, Destani made a strong impression with her professionalism and dedication. The team at Flex Desk expressed sincere appreciation for her contributions and even hoped she would consider staying on longer. However, Destani has set her sights on higher education and will soon begin her freshman year at Howard University, following her graduation from high school in June.

Everyone involved in her journey through the NextGen program celebrates Destani's accomplishments and wishes her continued success as she embarks on this exciting new chapter at Howard University.

Hunter

Hunter first visited the NCWorks Career Center on August 6, 2024, seeking support in obtaining his Commercial Driver's License (CDL). At just 18 years old and a resident of Franklin County, Hunter was motivated by a powerful reason—he was preparing for the arrival of his first child, expected in September.

After exploring local training



options, Hunter chose to enroll in the CDL program at Vance–Granville Community College in Henderson. Through dedication and hard work, he successfully completed the program on December 20, 2024.

Today, Hunter is employed full-time with GRD Trucking as a driver. He takes pride in earning a strong wage and being able to support his fiancée and newborn son. His journey stands as a testament to determination, responsibility, and the life-changing impact of career training.

Young Adult Hiring Event Annual Event

On Tuesday, April 29th the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board and the NCWorks Career Center in partnership all five of our local K-12 school systems in the Kerr-Tar Region held the 4th Annual Young Adult Hiring Event at the Raleigh Road Outdoor Theatre in Henderson. It was an exciting event with outstanding engagement opportunities. Twenty four employers from across the Kerr-Tar Region were featured. Many employers were able to bring work trucks and heavy equipment to highlight their industries. Vance Granville Community College and Piedmont Community College shared information about their programs, classes, and short-term training opportunities. Groups of students from Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance and Warren counties, all eager to learn about careers and employment options following graduation as well as several job seekers from the general public helped push this years attendance number over 180.



Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 200
- Total New Youth Enrollments: 130
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 35
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 41
- Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 60
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 35
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 2
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 66
- Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 58
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 10
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 51

Grant Recipients

Bladen Community College	\$153,581
Two Hawk Workforce Services - Hoke County	\$119,172
Partners In Ministry – Richmond County	\$41,141
Partners In Ministry – Scotland County	\$23,130
Scotland County Schools	\$35,568
Two Hawk Workforce Services - Robeson County	\$415,800
Two Hawk Workforce Services - Richmond County	\$94,559
Two Hawk Workforce Services - Scotland County	\$83,573

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$369,656
Total Participant Costs	\$157,869
Total Costs	\$527,525

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$62,966
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	12%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$118,658
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	22%

Success Stories

Erin

After years of hard work, focus, and a deep passion for problem-solving, Erin proudly earned her Associate Degree in Electrical Engineering Technology from Southeastern Community College. This major milestone marks not just the end of a chapter but the beginning of a powerful and purpose-driven future in electrical engineering and technology.



Throughout her academic journey, Erin demonstrated remarkable determination and skill, mastering complex topics such as circuit theory, digital systems, and energy distribution. Her performance reflected both her natural talent and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Importantly, Erin did not walk this path alone. She was an active participant in the WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) NextGen Program, which played a key role in helping her stay focused and on track. Through NextGen, she received supportive services that helped alleviate financial burdens often associated with higher education. With this support, Erin was able to concentrate fully on her studies, complete her program successfully, and graduate with the credentials needed to launch her career.

Her journey is a shining example of what can happen when drive meets direction — and when talent is paired with the right tools and encouragement.

Janari

Janari entered the NCWorks Career Center determined to find gainful employment as an electrical lineman but needed to complete Behind-the-Wheel Training with Richmond Community College.



Facing a financial barrier, he connected with the NextGen Career Advisor, who helped him overcome that obstacle, enabling him to complete his training and move closer to his employment goal.

Janari committed fully to his training: he studied diligently, prioritized attendance, and maintained regular communication with his Youth Career Advisor to stay on track. The program's support, combined with his determination, kept him motivated throughout the course. He exhibited a strong work ethic, maturity, and responsibility as he progressed toward completion.

Jayden

Jayden enrolled in the WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) In-School Next-Gen Program as a high school freshman with clear goals: to earn his diploma and develop strong employability skills. Initially, he showed interest in athletic training, accounting, and pharmacy.

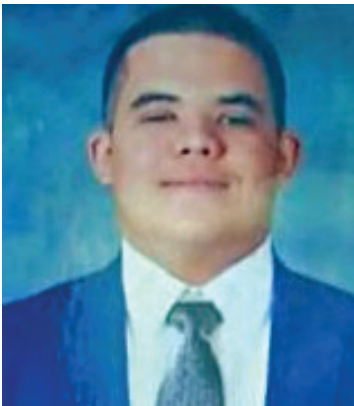


However, after completing a technology course and participating in the Genius Bar Internship, Jayden discovered a new passion—computer science. He dove into work-based learning opportunities with the Scotland County Schools Technology Department and thrived.

Now a proud member of the Scotland High School Class of 2025, Jayden is preparing to attend UNC-Chapel Hill, where he will pursue a dual major in Computer Science and Business Administration.

Jonathan

Jonathan earned his Science degree with a concentration in Cyber Security in December 2024 but struggled to find employment aligned with his field. Seeking help, he turned to the NCWorks Career Center for guidance on boosting his employability skills and securing a job.



Thanks to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen, Jonathan obtained a Work Experience opportunity that gave him practical experience and helped expand his professional knowledge. He is thriving in his role, and the employer is impressed—plans are in motion to hire him full-time.

The NextGen program may also provide on-the-job training to further support his growth. Jonathan currently lives with his parents but looks forward to full-time employment that will allow him to begin building his own independent life.

Marissa

Marissa came to the NextGen program seeking financial assistance to attend Sandhills Dental Career Center. As a mother of three daughters, she faced significant challenges, yet her determination never wavered.



At 24 years old, holding a high school equivalency diploma, Marissa dedicated herself to caring for her children full-time while pursuing a better future. She enrolled in the spring semester at the Dental Career Center, successfully completing her training in March 2025.

With support from her career advisor, Marissa is now focused on securing employment and taking the next step toward independence and stability. Her resilience and commitment serve as an inspiration—proof that strength and determination can turn dreams into reality.



Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 133
- Total New Youth Enrollments: 76
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 33
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 7
- Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 64
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 10
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 4
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 43
- Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 29
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 14
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 32

Grant Recipients

EQUUS Workforce Solutions	\$974,500
Harnett County Government	\$246,500

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$342,778
Total Participant Costs	\$206,696
Total Costs	\$549,474

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$119,821
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	22%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$222,345
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	40%

Success Stories

Tyannah

Tyannah enrolled in the NextGen Program at the age of 22. A dedicated single parent with a high school diploma and work experience primarily in restaurants and fast food, Tyannah was determined to pursue a more stable and rewarding career path to support her family. She recognized that her previous jobs were not in high-demand fields and sought guidance and resources to help her achieve her goals.



With the support of the NextGen Program, Tyannah identified dental assisting as her career of interest and began training at NC Dental U on July 22, 2024. Over the course of her training, she remained focused and committed to her professional growth. On September 13, 2024, Tyannah successfully completed the program, earning her Dental Assistant I Certificate, Intraoral Radiography Certificate, and Nitrous Oxide Sedation Certificate.

Following her graduation, Tyannah secured employment as a Dental Assistant, entering a field with a higher median wage, access to benefits, and opportunities for advancement. Her success reflects her resilience, drive, and the impactful support provided through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen Program.

Cameron

Cameron enrolled in the NextGen Program as an out-of-school youth seeking guidance and a clear direction for his future. With an interest in media and communications but no prior experience, Cameron was eager to explore career pathways and gain hands-on exposure to the professional world.



Through the support of the NextGen Program, Cameron was placed with the Fayetteville Woodpeckers—a unique opportunity that allowed him to work within a professional sports organization. There, he gained invaluable experience by supporting game day operations and assisting with media initiatives. His role pushed him out of his comfort zone and challenged him to develop critical skills such as teamwork, communication, adaptability, and professionalism in a fast-paced environment.

Cameron's time with the Woodpeckers not only helped him build confidence but also reaffirmed his passion for media and communications. Inspired by this experience, he has since enrolled in college to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Media Studies.

Cameron's journey is a testament to the power of opportunity, mentorship, and career exploration. Through the NextGen Program, he gained the tools, exposure, and motivation needed to take the first steps toward a promising future.

Kalayla

Kalayla enrolled in the NextGen Program as a part-time employed, single-parenting youth determined to build a better future for herself and her child. With a strong interest in the manufacturing industry, she identified the BIOWorks Processing Technician course as a key step toward securing stable, higher-paying employment.



Despite facing barriers such as limited work history and the challenges of single parenthood, Kalayla remained committed to her goals. With encouragement from her support system—including her mother, extended family, and the NextGen Program—she successfully enrolled in and completed the BIOWorks Processing Technician training at Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC).

Through hard work, dedication, and the support of NextGen

services, Kalayla earned her certificate and has since gained employment in the manufacturing field. This opportunity not only provides her with valuable industry experience but also positions her for long-term career growth and financial stability.

Kalayla's story is a testament to the power of perseverance and the impact of supportive programs. Her journey illustrates how young adults can overcome life's challenges and achieve success when given the right resources and opportunities.

Magloire

Magloire enrolled in the NextGen Program with a clear goal—to obtain his Class A Commercial Driver's License and build a better future. At 23 years old and recently justice-involved, Magloire was determined to turn his life around through meaningful occupational skills training and sustainable employment.



He began his journey at Carolina Trucking Academy on July 29, 2024. While he excelled in many areas of the program, Magloire faced challenges during the driving portion of the training. These struggles caused a delay in completing the program by the originally scheduled end date. However, Magloire remained focused and resilient. His determination to succeed, paired with the support and encouragement of the training provider, enabled him to push through and overcome the difficulties.

On October 7, 2024, Magloire proudly completed his training and obtained his Class A Commercial Driver's License. Shortly after, he was hired by G & D Hauling as a truck driver, earning \$18.00 an hour.

Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 97
- Total New Youth Enrollments: 208
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 121
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 42
- Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 150
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 43
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 41
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 97
- Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 187
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 152
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 91

- Exceeded the policy requirement for Work Experience (20%) by reaching 276%
- Held the first Youth Job Fair
- Hosted another successful Contruction Career Day for Youth
- Students who are enrolled in Metrix training have completed certification before occupational skills training success
- The "Go Place" Program is in its third year of success

Grant Recipients

Goodwill of Northwest NC	\$378,318
Henderson County Schools	\$187,857
Madison County Schools	\$137,981

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$171,369
Total Participant Costs	\$626,475
Total Costs	\$797,844

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$20,972
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	3%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$605,505
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	76%

Success Stories

Madison

At the time of her enrollment in the NextGen Program, Madison was a 17-year-old high school junior. She was homeless and had not seen or talked to her parents in several months. She was unemployed, but despite her circumstances, she was a very motivated student with a positive attitude and bubbly personality. She was interested in a career in cosmetology and owning her own salon one day. Through the NextGen Program, Madison was enrolled in the Work Experience activity and gained valuable work experience in an established salon, assisting the stylists in a variety of ways. Madison proved to be an exemplary employee and a wonderful addition to the business.



During her senior year, Madison found out she was pregnant, but that did not deter her from her goals. Although being pregnant her senior year certainly provided its own set of obstacles, her determination never wavered. Committed to her education, she graduated with her class with a high school grade point average of 3.6. In addition, through Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College's College

and Career Promise Program (CCP), Madison earned 16 credit hours and a college grade point average of 3.2.

With support provided by NextGen and her determination to build a better future for herself and her family, Madison is currently in the process of enrolling in the cosmetology program at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College for the fall of 2025. In addition to being a wife and mother, Madison is committed to building a successful career while balancing her family responsibilities, ensuring a brighter future for them all.

Josh

Let me introduce you to Josh. During his preteen years, Josh experienced periods of homelessness, but he and his family finally found stable housing just as he started high school. Josh is a quiet young man who enjoys spending time alone. After his junior year, he began struggling at his public high school and decided to walk away from traditional schooling in search of other options.



Josh and his mother started researching the General Education Diploma (GED) and Adult High School programs offered at their local community college. During this process, they were introduced to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen Program. Through NextGen, Josh enrolled in the workforce program and began taking classes at the Career Academy, where he was also offered a work experience opportunity as a custodial assistant.

The Career Academy proved to be an excellent fit for Josh. "I really loved the small class sizes and getting more individual attention from the teachers," said Josh. He thrived in his classes and graduated early in January. At the same time, he excelled in his work experience—his supervisor gave him outstanding scores on his evaluation. Josh did so well that he was offered a second-shift custodial position at the community college, performing the same tasks on the same floor he had worked during his placement.

Josh graduated in January with a job already waiting for him—one he was both familiar with and confident doing. He is currently enjoying his role at the community college, taking pride in his work.

Shana

Before entering the NextGen program, Shana knew she wanted to do meaningful, impactful work but wasn't sure how to balance that desire with the need to pay her bills. She aspired to work with Safe Shelter, a local agency dedicated to providing shelter and ending homelessness.



The Operations Manager at Safe Shelter was familiar with the NextGen program and connected Shana with a Career Advisor who arranged a part-time work experience for Shana with Safe Shelter, allowing her to explore careers in the human services field, grow her skills, and earn income. NextGen also provided support services and funding to help cover transportation costs.

"My entire experience with NextGen has been such a blessing," Shana shared. "I was able to spend my first full year at Safe Shelter capturing the mission of this work and gaining as much knowledge as possible. Utilizing this program made me feel like I was being held accountable for representing who I am in this field of work." In January 2025, Shana's paid work experience ended—because she had become a full-time staff member at Safe Shelter, earning a living wage.

Today, Shana holds the position of Community Health Worker (CHW)–Lead, where she teaches and mentors new CHWs. Her most important goal, she says, is "to continue growing at Safe Shelter. Every day is a chance to learn something new, and I don't take that lightly. I plan to grow out of my position eventually into something bigger."

Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 54
 - Total New Youth Enrollments: 9
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 4
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 21
 - Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 23
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 2
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 1
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 2
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 14
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 29
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 22
-
- Hosted our 7th Annual Real World Simulation event, welcoming nearly 100 teens and young adults from seven counties. Participants spent the day having fun while learning valuable lessons about how educational and career choices impact their finances and lifestyle.
 - Organized a beach cleanup day, where participants in the NextGen developed leadership and teamwork skills while providing a service to the community.
 - Led a group tour of the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory in Raleigh. Participants learned about various departments—including Digital Evidence, Latent Evidence, DNA, Drug Chemistry, Firearms, Trace Evidence, and Toxicology—and what each department does. They toured the facility, viewed lab equipment, and observed technicians at work.
 - Hosted an Employer in the Foyer event at the Elizabeth City NCWorks Career Center, where participants spoke with a local employer about careers in automotive and explored job roles using virtual reality headsets.
 - NextGen staff attended over 55 job fairs and community outreach events, helping to expose youth to career opportunities with local employers and promoting available services through NextGen and the NCWorks Career Centers.

Grant Recipients

N/A Services Provided In-House

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$233,328
Total Participant Costs	\$127,771
Total Costs	\$351,099

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$38,535
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	11%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$89,235
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	25%

Success Stories

Adonte

Adonte joined the NextGen program while finishing his senior year at Pasquotank County High School. Despite the challenges of an intellectual disability, he remained focused and determined to achieve his goals. Adonte graduated shortly after enrolling in NextGen. Eager to build his skills and gain independence, he enrolled in the Adult Basic Educational Transitional Opportunities (ABETO) program at College of the Albemarle, while staying fully engaged with NextGen.

Adonte embraced every opportunity to learn and grow. He participated in a wide range of enriching experiences, including paid work experiences (WEX) at CB's Auto Tire & Service and Homestyle Bakery & Café, Career Center workshops, business and college tours, Adulting Days, virtual reality career exploration, and the Real World Simulation event. Each activity deepened his understanding of the



working world and adult responsibilities.

With guidance from his Career Advisor, Adonte prepared for his next step: employment. He completed a job application for Chick-fil-A in Elizabeth City, practiced interview skills to build confidence, and—on October 17, 2024—was offered a position as a dishwasher.

Today, Adonte is proudly employed and gaining real-world experience. His journey is a powerful example of how perseverance, guidance, and hands-on learning can turn goals into reality.

Madison

Madison joined the NextGen program as a 21-year-old single mother of three. Having recently completed the Nurse Aide I course at College of the Albemarle, she was thrilled to be accepted into the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program. Seeking support with travel, tuition, and supplies, Madison connected with her Career Advisor and fully committed to her education.



Despite her determination, Madison fell just two points short of the grade required to advance from Practical Nursing I to the next level. Though deeply disappointed, she refused to give up. Instead, she enrolled in a full course load the following semester, determined to continue moving forward toward a healthcare career—no matter which path it took.

Before the end of that semester, Madison applied to the Medical Assisting program and was accepted. She began classes that summer, and within a year, earned her Medical Assisting Diploma and passed the certification exam, officially becoming a Certified Medical Assistant.

Since then, Madison has completed the remaining coursework required to obtain her Associate's Degree in Medical Assisting. She is now exploring employment opportunities in her field and preparing for the next chapter in her career.

Gary and Louis

Gary and Louis are twin brothers who moved from Texas to Gates County, where they found themselves needing to restart their education in a new community. Determined to stay on track, they connected with a local NextGen Career Advisor to explore their options.

Initially, the brothers planned to earn their Adult High School Diplomas, but an unexpected change in their living situation meant they couldn't wait through the orientation process. Instead, they chose to pursue high school equivalency through General Educational Development (GED) test.

Gary took the first step by completing the GED Ready practice tests, which indicated he was likely to pass the official exams. While he was able to pay for the practice tests himself, he didn't have the funds for the actual exams. With support from the NextGen program, Gary received test vouchers and successfully passed all four tests—earning a College Ready designation in both Social Studies and Science.



Louis faced similar financial barriers. After completing the GED Ready tests and demonstrating strong potential, he also received test vouchers from NextGen. He passed all four exams as well, earning College Ready scores in Social Studies.

With their GEDs in hand, Gary and Louis both secured employment at Electric Motor & Contracting Co. They are now participating in the company's apprenticeship program—Gary in the mechanic track and Louis in the machine track. Louis has also enrolled at Tidewater Community College as part of his apprenticeship.

Their journey is a powerful example of perseverance and resilience. With support from the NextGen program and their own determination, Gary and Louis overcame significant challenges and are now building successful futures.



Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 324
 - Total New Youth Enrollments: 190
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 119
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 190
 - Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 61
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 20
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 17
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 50
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 172
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 106
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 213
-
- NextGen Spotlight: Aviona’s Journey Toward a Healthier Future. As featured in Forsyth Woman’s Magazine, Aviona’s story shines with drive and determination. Through the NextGen program, she earned her NC State CNA license, began working at Arbor Acres nursing home, and completed her dental assistant certification. Now, she’s gearing up to start a two-year dental hygienist program this fall—a bold next step in her inspiring healthcare journey.
 - NextGen Youth Goes Behind the Scenes of State Government. A rising NextGen participant took part in a four-day leadership program offering hands-on experience in state government. From meeting Governor Roy Cooper to shadowing public servants across departments, they explored civic careers and built practical skills. On the final day, they presented thoughtful public policy proposals, shaped by their earlier job-shadowing experiences—making a bold impression on state leaders and shaping ideas for a stronger future.
 - Eleven NextGen participants graduated from the Piedmont Triad Regional Workforce Development Board (PTRWDB)’s Triad Career Connect program. This initiative allowed participants to explore career paths shaped by local employers, schools, and colleges. They earned certifications in CPR, OSHA-10, and Lean Six Sigma, and received financial literacy training along with career

support. By the program’s end, all participants were employed with Davie County partners across industries such as healthcare, law enforcement, and IT. Six started college in August, while five extended their work experiences through December—building bright futures in real time.

- Teen Resume Workshop: Skills & Fun Combined. In July 2024, twenty teens joined NCWorks and NextGen staff at Interworks in Mount Airy for personalized resume help aboard the Piedmont Triad Regional Workforce Development Board (PTRWDB) Mobile Unit. Hosted in collaboration with Mount Airy Downtown, Inc. and Parks & Recreation, the event mixed career prep with yard games, free food, and a tour of Interworks—making it an engaging day of growth and connection.

Grant Recipients

Goodwill Industries of Northwest NC	\$1,750,000
-------------------------------------	-------------

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$1,258,237
Total Participant Costs	\$574,617
Total Costs	\$1,832,854

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$242,327
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	13%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$436,461
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	24%

Success Stories

Wesley

In September 2024, Wesley embarked on a transformative journey by joining the NextGen program. His goals were ambitious: obtaining a driver’s license, completing his high

school equivalency, earning welding certifications, and building a career in skilled trades.

Growing up in an environment affected by addiction, Wesley faced significant barriers. However, he approached the NextGen program with a deep commitment to improving his circumstances. The supportive team at NextGen helped him obtain vital records, such as his birth certificate, Social Security card, and a state-issued photo ID, which are essential for accessing education and obtaining employment.

Wesley made remarkable progress despite facing housing instability. By November 2024, he earned his driver’s license, purchased a vehicle, and completed his high school equivalency. He then enrolled in the welding program at Davie-Davidson Community College, earning certifications in MIG/Stick and TIG welding.

Balancing work and training, Wesley held a job at Food Lion, which helped him further develop discipline and time-management skills. His next goal was the American Welding Society (AWS) certification exam. After months of preparation, he passed the exam in May 2025 and secured a full-time position with Avgol as a Welder.

Asia

Asia joined the NextGen Youth program on April 15, 2024, to pursue her Nursing Assistant I course. As a single mother balancing a full-time job, Asia’s journey is nothing short of inspiring as she worked tirelessly to build a brighter future for her child.

From the very beginning, Asia demonstrated unwavering motivation to earn her Nursing Assistant I License. She diligently completed all class requirements, positioning herself for success. On August 19,



2024, she began the course at Forsyth Technical Community College and excelled, completing the program by November 13, 2024. That same day, she proudly received her Certificate of Completion and officially obtained her Nursing Assistant I License on November 25, 2024.

Asia’s dedication paid off when, on December 18, 2024, she began a new role as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Camden Health and Rehabilitation. Her achievement is more than a professional milestone—it’s a powerful testament to her determination and perseverance in the face of significant challenges. Asia is not only a role model to others in similar circumstances but a shining example of what resilience and hard work can accomplish.

Houston

Houston eagerly applied to the NextGen program in hopes of securing financial assistance to obtain his Class A license. He officially joined the program in September 2024, and his journey began the following month with an intensive Truck Driver Training course at Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute.

While Houston initially felt some apprehension, his dedication and determination quickly became evident. He fully immersed himself in the training, earning his Class A permit in short order, followed by his full Class A license. By December 2024, Houston successfully completed the Truck Driver Training program—a major milestone in his professional journey.

Soon after graduating, Houston secured a full-time position with the Ronda Fire Department, where he now uses his Class A license to operate specialized equipment for rescue operations requiring that endorsement.



Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 98
 - Total New Youth Enrollments: 45
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 24
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 31
 - Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 19
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 7
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 5
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 18
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 28
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 4
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 38
-
- Participated in the Future Health Professional Conference with East Carolina University (ECU) Health, enhancing the Work Experience partnership.
 - Established a partnership between the ECU Health Talent Pipeline and NextGen to provide work experience and on-the-job training opportunities for young people interested in pursuing healthcare careers in hospital and clinical settings.
 - Attended Pitt Community College's Bridging the Gap Minority Male Resource Event.
 - Led the Bridgeworks project with Beaufort County Community College to bring together employers, Title II/ College and Career Readiness (CCR) staff, Occupational Skills instructors, and NextGen Career Advisors and Business Services representatives. The initiative promoted Integrated Education and Training (IET) and concurrent enrollment opportunities for NextGen participants. Conducted informational sessions to help partners better understand each other's roles, needs, initiatives, labor market data, services, and more. Participating partners included local employers, NENC Pathways, NCWorks, Beaufort County Community College's Career and Technical, Nursing and Allied Health, and College and Career Readiness departments.

Grant Recipients

Visionary Connections \$1,078,545

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$431,023
Total Participant Costs	\$134,617
Total Costs	\$565,640

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$41,630
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	7%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$225,834
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	40%

Success Stories

Hailey-Jade

Hailey-Jade joined the NCWorks NextGen Youth Program on April 26, 2024, with a strong determination to build a better future for herself and her family. At the time of enrollment, she was a parenting youth and expecting another child. Despite the challenges she faced, she remained committed to advancing her career. On May 18, 2024, Hailey-Jade enrolled in the Dental Assistant Program at NC Dental U, knowing this field offered an opportunity to make a meaningful impact. Throughout the program, she attended classes regularly and consistently updated her Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in collaboration with her career advisor.

In addition to her studies, Hailey-Jade fully embraced the work experience opportunities offered by the program. She participated in the Work Experience (WEX) component, gaining valuable hands-on experience in a professional



setting. Her dedication paid off—she excelled in the Dental Assistant Program and earned an incentive for her outstanding grades, reflecting her strong work ethic and academic achievement.

Her perseverance and positive attitude shone through as she navigated the dual responsibilities of pregnancy and parenting while actively pursuing her goals.

Hailey-Jade successfully completed the Dental Assistant Program on August 7, 2024—an impressive accomplishment and a true testament to her resilience and determination. After giving birth and taking time to recover, she was eager to enter the workforce. With her certification and newly acquired skills, she set her sights on full-time employment and secured a position at the Dental Care Center in Greenville, NC. She began her full-time employment on December 2, 2024, marking a pivotal milestone in her professional journey.

Jasmyn

Jasmyn began her journey with the NCWorks NextGen Youth Program on May 7, 2024, eager to find a career path that matched her interests and ambition. From the moment she joined, Jasmyn demonstrated exceptional dedication and a strong work ethic. She quickly focused on becoming a dental assistant, and with guidance from the program, she enrolled in the NC Dental U program. Throughout her time there, Jasmyn maintained excellent study habits, staying organized and on top of her coursework. Her consistent commitment to her goals set her apart as a standout participant in the program.

As Jasmyn worked through the NC Dental U program, she showed resilience and a drive to succeed. She not only completed her coursework but also excelled in understanding the practical aspects of dental assisting. On December 7, 2024, Jasmyn completed the program and received her dental assistant certificate. In recognition of her success, Jasmyn earned a \$100 incentive, further motivating her to pursue her career goals with confidence.



With her certification in hand, Jasmyn took the next step in her career journey by securing an interview with Greenville Kids Dental. She approached the interview with professionalism and enthusiasm, impressing the hiring team with her knowledge, attitude, and the skills she had gained from the NC Dental U program. Shortly after, Jasmyn received an offer letter from the dental office, confirming her start date as January 20, 2025. The offer marked a significant achievement for Jasmyn and was a testament to the preparation and hard work she put into her training.

Zhanyia

Zhanyia is making great strides toward her goal of becoming a Pediatric Dental Assistant. As a single mother living in a low-income area, Zhanyia has demonstrated resilience and determination in improving her career prospects. She has actively worked with a Career Advisor (CA) to explore her career goals and educational opportunities. After discussing her aspirations, including enrolling in the Dental Assistant I program at NC Dental U, Zhanyia received assistance with tuition, books, and required materials. During a productive conversation, she expressed gratitude for the guidance she received in making informed decisions about her future career.

In addition to her educational goals, Zhanyia has been working at Pinner Family Dental since December 2024. Her progress has been recognized with two \$100 incentives—one for completing the NC Dental U program and another for successfully obtaining unsubsidized employment for at least three weeks. Zhanyia's commitment to her professional growth in the dental industry is clear, and with continued support, she is well on her way to achieving her career goals.



Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 65
- Total New Youth Enrollments: 45
- Total Credentials Youth Earned: 1
- Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 3
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 45
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 10
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 43
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 53

Grant Recipients

HIGHTS	\$251,709
Haywood County Schools	\$110,000

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$262,493
Total Participant Costs	\$36,643
Total Costs	\$299,136

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$18,471
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	6%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$55,522
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	19%

Success Stories

Maddie

When Maddie first enrolled in early college, she was a motivated and high-achieving young woman with big dreams for her future. However, life took an unexpected and heartbreaking turn when her brother passed away. The loss shook her world and, coupled



with the emotional aftermath, she faced significant mental health challenges that ultimately led her to withdraw from school.

During this time, Maddie showed incredible strength. Instead of giving up, she chose to pause, reflect, and focus on her healing. With the support of her family, community, and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen Youth Program, she began to rebuild—one step at a time.

She returned to her education with renewed determination and completed her high school track at the Haywood Community Learning Center, a setting that provided the flexibility and support she needed to succeed. Not only did she earn her diploma, but she also secured employment at Cook Out, where she is gaining valuable work experience and independence.

Her journey is far from over: Maddie has been talking to Haywood Community College to see if that is something she would like to do in the fall. Maddie is ready to pursue the future she once feared had slipped away.

Her story is a testament to resilience, courage, and the power of second chances. We are proud to celebrate her accomplishments and cannot wait to see what she does next.

Rae Ann

Rae Ann, a Helping Inspire Gifts, Hope, Trust, and Service (HIGHTS) workforce participant, completed her High School Equivalency diploma with Southwestern Community College. With support from her Youth Career Advisor, she completed a work experience with the Macon County Tax Office in Franklin, NC. Her hands-on experience in the tax office as a switchboard operator and staff assistant helped her understand the internal tax process for local property owners. This experience provided a knowledgeable foundation about property ownership for her dream career as a real estate agent.



Rae Ann works full-time at Harrah's Casino in Cherokee, NC. HIGHTS (Helping Inspire Gifts, Hope, Trust, and Service) is a Southwestern Commission Workforce Board WIOA youth provider serving the six westernmost counties in North Carolina.

Melissa

Melissais a recent General Educational Development (GED) graduate from Southwestern Community College with the assistance of the Helping Inspire Gifts, Hope, Trust, and Service (HIGHTS) Workforce Development Program. She and her spouse live in the Macon area, and she is currently working at Tractor Supply. She is an active caretaker of her grandparents and is looking at a career in cosmetology now that she has graduated.



Nick

Nick, a youth participant from Texas, has a story that speaks to resilience, growth, and transformation. Coming from a childhood marked by gangs, instability, and street violence, Nick faced barriers that would have discouraged many. After time in the foster care system, he was adopted just one day before his 18th birthday — a turning point that marked the beginning of a new chapter. When Nick enrolled in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen Youth Program at HCLC, he brought with him determination and a desire for change. He worked hard to earn his academic credits and quickly became known for his commitment, not only to his education but also to his personal development.



Nick didn't just attend classes — he became an active member of the program community. He participated in program-wide events, joined after-school activities like cooking

class and the greenhouse project, and consistently showed up with a positive attitude. Over time, his growth was visible in more than just his academic success. His behavior, health, and confidence all flourished. He built meaningful friendships and often spent school breaks playing basketball and connecting with peers — a small but significant sign of his growing sense of belonging.

Nick's story is a powerful example of what happens when youth are given support, opportunity, and the space to thrive. His journey reminds us that with the right guidance and a strong sense of self-determination, young people can rewrite their story — and build a future filled with hope.



Joseph spent most of his childhood in the foster care system. Although he struggled in the traditional school setting, he sought out the assistance of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) NextGen Youth Program and The Bridge Academy at Tri-County Community College. With the encouragement and support of these programs, Joseph successfully completed his studies and obtained his high school diploma. Joseph plans to study business and art in college.

Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 119
- Total New Youth Enrollments: 72
- Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 19
- Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 26
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 19
- Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 10
- Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 52
- Total Youth That Entered Employment: 63
- Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 1

Grant Recipients

Opportunities Industrialization Center of Wilson, Inc.	\$232,000
Opportunities Industrialization Center of Rocky Mount, Inc.	\$447,492
Halifax Cooperative Extension	\$101,296
Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA)	\$134,548

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$762,829
Total Participant Costs	\$89,427
Total Costs	\$852,256

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$57,136
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	7%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$341,790
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	40%

Success Stories

Javen

When Javen walked through the doors of Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Rocky Mount, he carried more than just the hope of earning his General Educational Development (GED)—he carried the weight of self-doubt, disappointment, and limited experience. Traditional public school environments had overwhelmed him with large classrooms, persistent distractions, and difficulty concentrating. Despite multiple attempts to return to school or complete his education online, nothing seemed to work—until he was introduced to the NextGen program.



Encouraged by the caring staff, focused environment, and smaller class sizes, Javen immediately found the support he needed to move forward in pursuing his diploma. He enrolled in the NextGen program and quickly began to excel. With guidance and counseling from his Career Advisor, Javen received tutoring and study skills training to actively reinforce the knowledge gained during classroom sessions, as well as leadership and development services to grow his social, communication, and decision-making skills while collaborating with peers. Within a few weeks of attendance, Javen passed several state tests, making dramatic progress toward achieving his goal.

With growing confidence, Javen shifted his focus to gaining skills through work-based learning. He began a work experience placement with MyTCreative, an Information Technology solutions company specializing in custom computer programming and web development. There, Javen’s passion for Information Technology grew. Recognizing his newly gained skills, his supervisor offered him a part-time position and increased his responsibilities. Javen balanced his academic goals and job training with his developing skills and unwavering determination.

Through persistence, in December 2024, Javen passed his final state math test and earned his GED. Shortly afterward, he was hired full-time at MyTCreative and accepted into Edgecombe

Community College, where he will pursue an Associate's Degree in Information Technology beginning in Fall 2025.

Kaci

Kaci was referred to the Halifax Cooperative Extension by the Department of Social Services in September 2024. She had begun the Foster Care 18–21 program in Halifax County, and as a 20-year-old single mother, struggled with the uncertainties of how to successfully navigate her future. Faced with numerous obstacles—including limited job experience, low financial literacy, and lack of support—Kaci was determined to build a better life for herself and her daughter.



In her search for guidance and support, she learned about the NextGen Program and enrolled with hopes of gaining the skills and resources needed to secure a stable job. Her Career Advisor provided guidance, counseling, and labor market information about potential in-demand careers and areas of interest, as well as job readiness workshops, mock interviews, résumé development, and work readiness activities. In addition,

With growing confidence and a strong interest in administrative careers, Kaci was given the opportunity to gain work experience at the Halifax Administrative Office, where she was paired with a mentor and developed basic office, communication, teamwork, computer, and organizational skills. .

After applying her newly developed skills and successfully completing two work experience assignments, Kaci was hired as a Secretary at the Halifax Administrative Office! Her journey exemplifies the transformative power of support and opportunity, driven by her determination to succeed with purpose. Kaci overcame her barriers and challenges and has now set new goals: pursuing an Associate's Degree in Office Administration at Halifax Community College in Fall 2025 and achieving homeownership in the very near future.

Rakira

Rakira came to Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Wilson seeking solutions and change in her current lifestyle. As

a high school dropout with a history of negative behavior, she realized she needed a better strategy to produce positive outcomes. Without hesitation, she requested enrollment in the NextGen Program for guidance and support in overcoming personal barriers and improving her ability to work with others.



Determined, Rakira met with a Career Advisor who helped her develop a plan to complete her education and gain meaningful employment. Struggling in certain academic areas, she received tutoring and study skills training that equipped her with effective learning techniques, strategic tools, and supportive resources. Additionally, Rakira participated in leadership classes designed to strengthen her decision-making and teamwork skills. Within the first few weeks, she began socializing more and applying what she was learning—showing rapid improvement in both her studies and communication abilities.

While attending General Educational Development (GED) prep classes to prepare for the exam, Rakira also participated in financial literacy workshops and entrepreneurial courses hosted by local business owners. These sessions inspired and encouraged youth to start and operate their own ventures. With a newly developed career focus, her Career Advisor supported her with résumé writing, mock interviews, and labor market information to help explore career opportunities.

Through hard work and dedication, Rakira graduated in June 2025 from Mitchener University Academy. With her new credentials and skills, she secured full-time employment with FedEx as a Package Handler. Motivated by a renewed sense of purpose and a desire to help others, she will begin studies at Wilson Community College in the fall to pursue a degree in Nursing.



Accomplishments

- Total Youth Served: 119
 - Total New Youth Enrollments: 56
 - Total Credentials Youth Earned: 44
 - Total Youth Participated in College Tours: 34
 - Total Soft/Working Smart Skills Graduate: 59
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Diplomas: 15
 - Total Youth Who Obtained High School Equivalencies: 5
 - Total Youth in Work-based Learning Opportunities: 39
 - Total Youth Enrolled in Occupational Skills Training: 55
 - Total Youth That Entered Employment: 45
 - Total Youth That Received Supportive Services: 129
-
- NextGen Job Fair – Valdese Public Library - On May 16, 2025, NCWorks NextGen partnered with the Burke County Public Library to host a youth-centered job fair at Valdese Public Library. The event featured nine local employers and organizations from the healthcare, government, arts, and education sectors. Around thirty youth job seekers engaged in direct conversations with recruiters, participated in on-the-spot interviews, and accessed tailored career development services. The fair highlighted the power of collaboration between workforce programs and community institutions in expanding local opportunities for young people.
 - 2024 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Summer Conference – Fusion for the Future: Unleashing Potential through Workforce Partnerships - At the annual CTE Summer Conference, our presentation highlighted how strategic partnerships can unlock new possibilities for opportunity youth. Attendees learned innovative ways to build cross-sector collaborations that enhance work-based learning, access to resources, and long-term career pathways. The session emphasized a shared vision of investing in youth potential through aligned workforce efforts.
 - 2024 NCWorks Partnership Conference – Collaboration: Your Superpower for Success - This inspiring and interactive session focused on collaboration as a vital

tool for removing employment barriers. Participants explored how compassion-driven partnerships can provide hope, guidance, and career exposure for youth navigating a complex labor market. The presentation empowered attendees to become catalysts for resilience and champions of opportunity youth across North Carolina.

Grant Recipients

Ross Innovative Employment Solutions	\$1,191,262
--------------------------------------	-------------

NextGen Expenditures

Total Operating Costs	\$340,112
Total Participant Costs	\$237,231
Total Costs	\$577,343

Training Expenditures

Total of All Participant Training Expenditures	\$68,308
Training Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	12%

Work-Based Learning Expenditures

Total Work-Based Learning Expenditures	\$168,923
Work-Based Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Expenditures	29%

Success Stories

Anahy

Anahy’s journey through the NextGen program has been both impactful and inspiring, providing her with hands-on experience that solidified her passion for healthcare and boosted her confidence to pursue it as a career. As a NextGen Work Experience (WEX) participant at J. Iverson Riddle Development Center (JIRDC), she developed key skills such as patient interaction, teamwork, and professional responsibility, which led to a part-time job offer due to her strong work



ethic. Now studying Medical Assisting at Western Piedmont Community College, Anahy continues to build her skills and reflects on how her internship helped her form meaningful connections with residents and staff, ultimately motivating her to apply for a position at JIRDC. Grateful for the support from NCWorks and the faculty at JIRDC, Anahy’s story is a powerful example of growth, dedication, and the impact of a supportive network in achieving success in the healthcare field.

Kori

Kori is currently participating in the NextGen program at The Corner Table Cafe, a community kitchen that meets the needs of the hungry in the community. Kori is gaining valuable hands-on experience through a Work Experience (WEX) placement while serving the local community. As a young person living with a disability and navigating personal challenges, Kori has demonstrated remarkable resilience. Her work in the kitchen allows her to pursue her passion for food while building essential skills for a future in the culinary field. This fall, she will begin her studies at Western Piedmont Community College, pursuing an Associate of Arts degree in Culinary Arts. Focused and determined, Kori is embracing this opportunity to grow both personally and professionally.



John

John, a senior at Hickory High, once struggled with poor grades and a lack of direction, uncertain about his future—until the summer of 2024, when a transformative internship with Hickory Electric changed everything. Over 400 hours of hands-on experience sparked a passion for electrical work and gave him a renewed sense of purpose, helping him



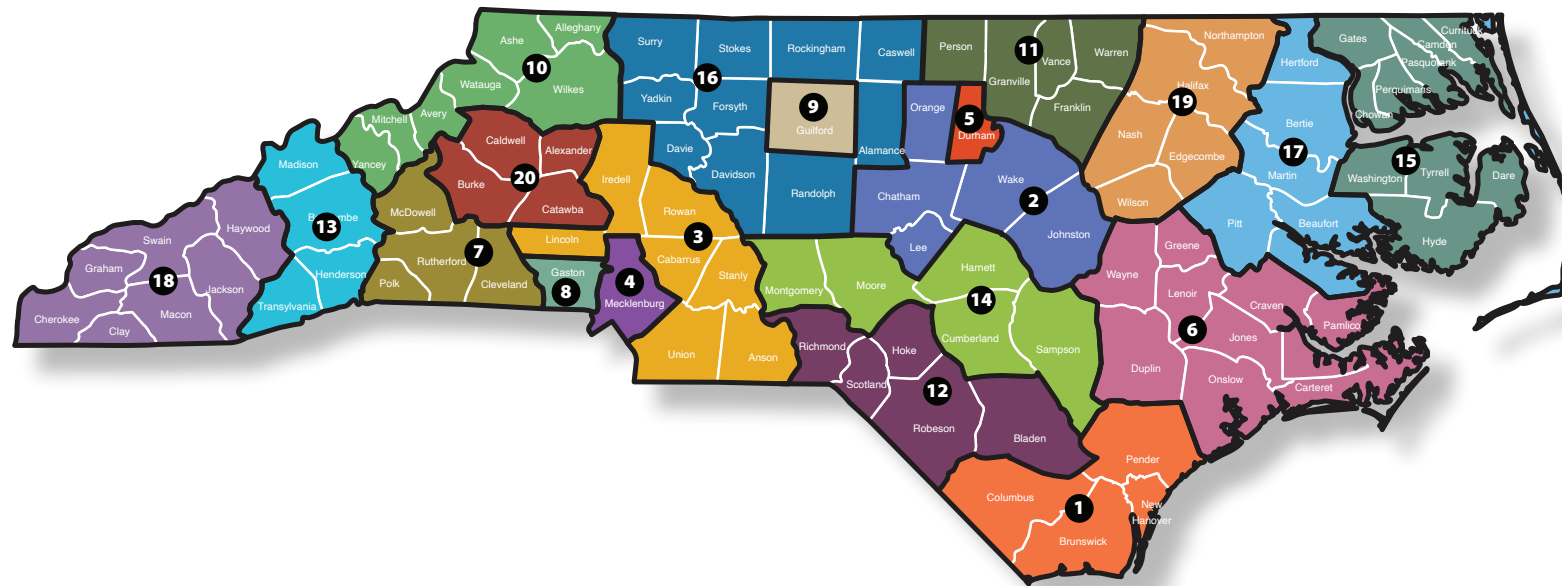
connect his academic studies to real-world applications. This shift not only improved his performance in school but also set him on a clear path toward graduation. His dedication and rapid learning impressed his supervisors to the extent that they offered him a job upon completion of a post-secondary certification, which NCWorks/NextGen is helping him pursue. Now, John views education not as a barrier but as the key to his future, and his story stands as a powerful example of how the right opportunity can transform uncertainty into ambition. He is eagerly working toward certification, knowing that a promising career and supportive community await him at Hickory Electric.

Yessica

Yessica, a dedicated participant in both the NextGen and Adult programs, has shown remarkable strength and determination in pursuing her dream of becoming a nurse. As a single parent, she has successfully balanced school, parenting, and work, consistently earning above-average grades and excelling in her courses. Her hard work is paying off—she graduated in May 2025 and received a job offer from Frye Regional Medical Center. Yessica credits her success to the support of NCWorks, expressing deep gratitude for the assistance with school expenses including scrubs, books, and gas cards. “Knowing that there are people and programs out there that truly care about students and want to see us succeed is incredibly encouraging,” she shared. Her journey is a powerful testament to resilience and the life-changing impact of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs in helping individuals overcome challenges and achieve their goals.



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**
Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Washington

- 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
- Turning Point WDB**
Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Northampton, Wilson
- 19**
- 20 Western Piedmont WDB**
Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba

North Carolina Workforce Board Chairs & Directors



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.

Cape Fear WDB

[Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, Pender](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Eric Barton, Vice-President of Quality, Tri-Tech Forensics
- Executive Director: Ginger Brick

Capital Area WDB

[Chatham, Johnston, Lee, Orange, Wake](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Brian Holland, General Counsel, Sectigo
- Executive Director: Pat E. Sturdivant

Centralina WDB

[Anson, Cabarrus, Iredell, Lincoln, Rowan, Stanly, Union](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Mike Beaver, President, Beaver Brothers, Inc.
- Executive Director: David Hollars

Charlotte Works WDB

[Mecklenburg](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Raki McGregor, Sr. Vice-President, Novant Health
- Executive Director: Anna London

Durham WDB

[Durham](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Cyril (CJ) Broderick, Jr. President/CEO, Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce
- Russell Ingram (Interim Director)

Eastern Carolina WDB

[Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, Wayne](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Frank Emory, Owner, Emory Construction
- Executive Director: Bill Green

Foothills WDB

[Cleveland, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Mark Weber, Plant Manager, Key Gas Components
- Executive Director: Annette Staley

Gaston County WDB

[Gaston](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Selina Lee, Owner, W.D. Lee & Company
- Executive Director: Michael Coone

GuilfordWorks WDB

[Guilford](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Eva Ogden, Senior Vice President, Pinnacle Financial Partners
- Executive Director: Dr. Danielle Harrison

High Country WDB

[Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes, Yancey](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Edward Hinson, Chief Marketing Officer, SkyBest Communications
- Executive Director: Misty Bishop-Price

Kerr-Tar WDB

[Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, Warren](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Vanessa Cooke-Alvarado, HR Manager, Dill Air Controls
- Executive Director: Lou Grillo

Lumber River WDB

[Bladen, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: John E. Cummings, Owner, Legacy Development Inc.
- Executive Director: Patricia Hammonds

Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board

[Cumberland, Harnett, Moore, Montgomery, Sampson](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Lee Spruill, IRA Labor Compliance Sr. Manager, Axia by Qcells
- Executive Director: Samantha Wullenwaber,

Mountain Area WDB

[Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Transylvania](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Graham Fields, Assistant to the President, Advent Health
- Executive Director: Nathan Ramsey

Northeastern WDB

[Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Washington](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Sean Lavin, Manager of Program Operations, TCOM, LP
- Rachel Clipston (Interim Director)

Piedmont Triad Regional WDB

[Alamance, Caswell, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Randolph, Rockingham, Surry, Stokes, Yadkin](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: W. Trent Cockerham, President & Chief Executive Officer, Hospice of the Piedmont
- Executive Director: Wendy Walker-Fox

Rivers East WDB

[Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin, Pitt](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Jenny Brown, Human Resources Strategic Consultant, ECU Health
- Executive Director: Jennie Bowen

Southwestern WDB

[Clay, Graham, Haywood, Macon, Jackson, Swain, Cherokee](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Mark Teague, Engineer, J.M. Teague Engineering and Planning
- Executive Director: David Garrett

Turning Point WDB

[Edgecombe, Nash, Halifax, Northampton, Wilson](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Cindy Harrell, Executive Director Diversified Opportunities, Inc.
- Executive Director: Michael Williams

Western Piedmont WDB

[Burke, Caldwell, Alexander, Catawba](#)

- Workforce Development Board Chair: Adam Gray, Owner, Precision Contracting NC, LLC
- Executive Director: Charity Patterson Hamber

North Carolina Association of Workforce Development Boards (NCAWDB) Officers

PRESIDENT

Jeff Frederick — Member NCWorks Commission, Senior HR Business Partner, Inmar Intelligence Greensboro, NC
jeffreylfrederick@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Flock — Member, Cape Fear Workforce Development Board
CEO, JSF Industrial, LLC
Wilmington, NC
jflock5960@gmail.com

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT/SECRETARY

Graham Fields — Chair, Mountain Area Workforce Development Board
Assistant to the President, Advent Health Hendersonville
Hendersonville, NC
Graham.Fields@adventhealth.com

TREASURER

Dina Simcox — Former Chair, Cumberland County Workforce Development Board
Gaffney, SC
dina.simcox@yahoo.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Rodney Carson — Vice Chair, Capital Area Workforce Development Board
Member NCWorks Commission
Principal Engagement Manager, US Government and Education
SAS Institute, Inc.
Cary, NC
Rodney.carson@sas.com

DIRECTOR’S COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

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

VICE-PRESIDENT

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

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY

Charity Patterson Hamber, Executive Director
Western Piedmont Workforce Development Board
Hickory, NC
Charity.Pattersonhamber@wpcog.org

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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

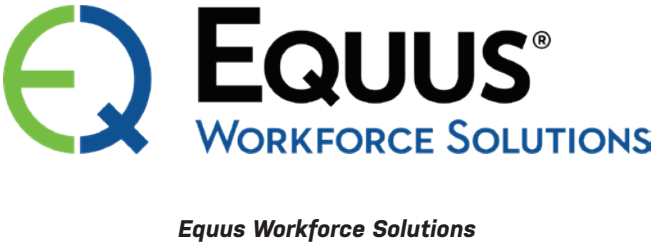
NCAWDB

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

www.ncawdb.org



Thank You To Our Sponsors!



Goodwill



Educational Data Systems Inc.



Eckerd



Transfr



*For more information about this report,
contact:*

Wendy Walker-Fox, Executive Director
Workforce and Economic Development

Piedmont Triad Regional Workforce
Development Board
Kernersville, NC
wwalkerfox@ptrc.org
336-904-0300

