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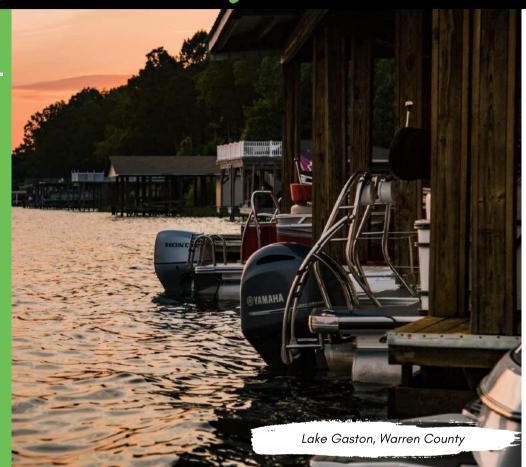
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events

- Kerr-Tar Reentry Resource Fair: Tuesday, April 12, 9:00 am-2:00 pm @ Hix Gym in Oxford
- Spring 2022 Litter Sweep: April 16-30
- Building Resiliency Open House: Thursday, April 28 (10:30 am-12:00 pm OR 6:00-7:30 pm), Virtual or @ COG Office in Henderson
- Kerr-Tar RPO Meeting: Thursday, April 28, 3:00-5:00 pm
- Young Adult Hiring Event: Friday, April 29, 9:30 am-4:00 pm @ Raleigh Road Outdoor Theatre in Henderson
- SilverArts: Thursday, May 26 @ Warren County Armory

Deadlines

- NC Ethics Forms due April 15
- Keep Our Air Clean Student Art Contest Entries due April 25
- ARP Project & Expenditure Report due April 30
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Grant Applications due May 9

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

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PERSON CO. SCHOOLS DIRECTOR OF EARL BRADSHER PRESCHOOL

Treco Lea-Jeffers is the Person County Schools Director of Earl Bradsher Preschool and has been on the Kerr-Tar COG Board since 2018. She enjoys engaging with local leaders from each of our five counties. Her commitment to the Kerr-Tar COG Board permits the opportunity to advance the quality of life for residents in the five counties and 16 municipalities served. Treco



states, "I can act in a stewardship role through this commitment, connect with my community, and increase professional networks." One of her greatest achievements in public service has been increasing the enrollment of Earl Bradsher Preschool during her tenure. Since 2014, the preschool has increased their enrollment capacity to serve 176 preschool children, enabling them to serve more 3-5 year old children, in turn helping families, children, and the community. Treco's goal for her community is to "embrace diversity and start loving thy neighbor as we love thyself." She also desires systemic equity for all communities in the region. Her parents Darnell and Marilyn are Treco's role models. They entrenched her love for God, family, and community, and conveyed confidence in her even on her worst days. Treco is the wife of Ray Jeffers, mother of two daughters (Shakira and Ivory), and grandmother to three.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

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REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNER/RPO COORDINATOR

Sam Boswell, Regional Transportation Planner and RPO Coordinator, has been with the Kerr-Tar COG since September 2021 and enjoys the opportunity to assist multiple counties and municipalities with their transportation network. Coordinating across city and county lines improves



the system for everyone's benefit. The Granville County East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study is one project in which Sam takes pride. This study looks at the feasibility of constructing a greenway trail (for bikes and pedestrians) between the Town of Butner and the City of Oxford. Fun fact about Sam: he loves music! In his free time, he can often be found in his home studio working on a variety of music projects. Sam's role model is his dad, who is a constant example of determination, creativity, and compassion.

ARP Project & Expenditure Report Due

An important reporting deadline is approaching regarding the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund program. The Project and Expenditure Report is due **April 30, 2022**.

For many local governments, this will mark the first time filing reports with the US Treasury. It is crucial that all North Carolina cities and towns meet this April 30 deadline. Reporting and accounting for ARP funds will be among the foremost priorities of this generational opportunity, and while many questions remain about this step, there are numerous organizations ready to help you.

Together, the NC League of Municipalities and the Councils of Government around North Carolina represent those most invested in your success. This direct federal funding represents an opportunity not just to recover from the pandemic, but to thrive long into the future. To ensure that potential is realized, we must build the administrative foundation by meeting reporting requirements.

Resources and guidance are available now. The NC League has built a website devoted to ARP, and recently published a blog post sharing resources directly related to this reporting deadline. That site can be found <u>HERE</u> and that blog post can be reached <u>HERE</u>. Your local COG has many additional resources on the ARP and beyond. To find and contact your local COG, see <u>HERE</u>.

The NCLM and Kerr-Tar COG is ready to help you now, both in meeting the upcoming reporting deadline and making other preparations for the investment of ARP funds. Both the League and the COG are receiving state ARP funds to help local governments manage these funds. This allows the League to add resources and personnel as part of a robust network of guidance and technical assistance to cities and towns. Be sure to take advantage of this support now and in the future. As you prepare for your April 30 reports, please do not hesitate to reach out.



Share Your Good News!

If you have news, events, announcements, or other items you would like included in an upcoming newsletter, please email <u>Beth Davis</u>, Kerr-Tar COG Regional Engagement Specialist.

NREA AGENCY ON AGING

2022 Senior Games



Opening Ceremonies for the 2022 Kerr-Tar AAA Senior Games were held March 25 at Creedmoor Community Center. This was a fun community event featuring food trucks, a Fun Walk and basketball shooting. This year's events include individual sports events, singles and doubles for table tennis, badminton, bowling, tennis, and pickleball. Events new this year include swimming and mini-golf. SilverArts will be held at the Warren County Armory on May 26. For a schedule of this year's events, click <u>HERE</u>.

Welcome New KTAAA Employees!

The Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging is pleased to report that two new employees have joined the COG at the end of March. Barbara Unrein is the new Aging Specialist, and Michael Patterson is the new Family Caregiver Specialist. Both will lead efforts to revitalize community events in the coming months. Look out for new programs and services, and as always, be in touch if you or any older adult in the region could use support from KTAAA.



Barbara Unrein Aging Specialist



Michael Patterson Family Caregiver Specialist

Vaccination Support & Outreach

KTAAA continues to support local community vaccine providers, including public health departments, as Covid number decrease. Everyone is encouraged to be vigilant and protect themselves and others by getting all vaccines and a booster, maintaining social distance, wearing a mask, and washing your hands.

On Friday, March 11, Lead for NC Fellow Taylor Colleton and Amanda Gordon-Redmon, Aging Projects Coordinator attended the NC Med Assist event at the Masonic Children's

Home in Oxford. Over 600 bags of PPE were provided to those in attendance! On March 18 and March 23, Taylor and Amanda worked with G.R.R.O. at their testing and vaccine events in Louisburg and Oxford.

Kerr-Tar AAA sponsored Warren County's Coping with COVID Town Hall, held Thursday, March 31. This event featured panelists that included spiritual leaders and licensed clinicians with the purpose of addressing the Warren County community on how to cope with the mental strain caused by the pandemic. All of these combined efforts have reached just under 800 individuals.



Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Final Rule Announced

The SLFRF Final Rule, will go into effect on April 1, 2022-provides state and local governments with increased flexibility to pursue a wider range of uses, as well as greater simplicity allowing governments to focus on responding to the crisis in their communities and maximizing the impact of their funds. For more information on this funding, as well as the additional clarity and flexibility offered to recipient governments, please reference the following <u>Press Release</u>, courtesy of the US Treasury.



Kerr-Tar Communities Recognized at NC Main Street Conference

At the NC Main Street Conference, awards were presented to communities and businesses for excellence in downtown revitalization during the virtual NC Main Street Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to these Kerr-Tar communities who were recognized!



-Design-Warrenton: Warrenton Town Hall Rehabilitation



Economic Vitality -Best Adaptive Reuse Project-Oxford: Strong Arm Bakery



Electric Vehicle Driver Spotlight

With the increasing popularity of electric vehicles and the increased funding for electrification in the new infrastructure bill, we wanted to highlight electric vehicle drivers and share what they love about driving an EV.



Student Art Contest

The North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC) has officially launched the 5th Annual "Keep Our Air Clean" Student Art Contest, where students in North Carolina from kindergarten through high school can submit their artwork for a chance to be featured on billboards across the state. Students' artwork should focus on actions that people can take to reduce air pollution from vehicles and help keep our air clean. Examples include walking, biking, using public transportation, carpooling, using electric vehicles or biofuels, and more. Please make artwork family-friendly, non-partisan and non-copyrighted. You can learn about the alternatives at <u>cleantransportation.org</u> or <u>fuelwhatmatters.org</u>. Entries are due **April 25, 2022**.



VW Mitigation Plan Phase 2 Funding

Presently, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality is offering several funding opportunities for projects to significantly reduce NOx emissions and improve air quality. Any municipality interested in such projects as: electric vehicle charging stations or bus replacements should contact Sam Boswell, RPO Coordinator at 252-436-2040. Further information on Phase 2 of the VW Settlement may be found <u>HERE</u>.



Expansion at Person County Airport

The new corporate hangar at Raleigh Regional Airport at Person County (FAA: TDF) is almost complete! This hangar includes Class A office space, an EV charger, and more. The 15,000 sq. ft. hangar is adjacent to a 6,005' x 100' runway.





2022 Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Grants

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the 2022 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative. The program provides funding for municipalities and counties across the state to develop comprehensive multimodal, bicycle, or pedestrian plans. The deadline for applications to be submitted electronically is **May 9, 2022**. Award recipients will be notified by August. If interested in applying, please contact the KTRPO at 252-436-2040.



Spring 2022 Litter Sweep

Litter Sweep is the North Carolina Department of Transportation's biannual statewide roadside litter removal initiative. Residents throughout the state participate in local efforts to help clean up North Carolina's roadways. In addition to volunteers, NCDOT maintenance crews devote one week of their time to pick up litter and collect orange bags placed on the roadsides by volunteer pickups. Volunteers are provided cleanup supplies, such as reversible orange/blue trash bags, gloves, and orange safety vests, from their local NCDOT County Maintenance Yard office. The Spring 2022 Litter Sweep will be held **April 16-30**. Please help by participating in this biannual event to make our region clean and beautiful!



Small Farms Week

On March 21, LFNC Taylor Colleton attended the Small Farms Week Kick-Off Meeting in Louisburg at MAE Farm, home of the 2021 Small Farmer of the Year. This annual event is designed to highlight the work of and show appreciation to the state's small, and part-time, limited resource. socially disadvantaged farmers. Activities for the day included guest speaker Ray Jeffers, a farmer panel, and a tour of MAE Farm. Taylor provided attendees with information on the Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council, the Visit NC Farms mobile app, Covid information flyers, AAA flyers, and statistics about food, farms, and health in the Kerr-Tar Region. More information on the Council of Governments' efforts to recruit



community members to become affiliated with the region's inaugural Food Council is available <u>HERE</u>.

Building Resiliency in the Kerr-Tar Region Open House

On Thursday, April 28 there will be two opportunities to participate in an Open House on Building Resiliency in the Kerr-Tar Region. Attend this open house to learn about and participate in a locally-driven resiliency project focused in Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, & Warren counties in the Kerr-Tar region of North Carolina. This will be an interactive and engaging open house with a short presentation at the beginning, followed by an opportunity for small group/individual collaboration for community members and stakeholders. The theme of the open house is sharing local knowledge of your community's challenges related to climate impacts, such as flooding and storms, what 'resilience' means to you, and strengths in the region. The open house is hosted by the NC Office of Recovery & Resiliency, Kleinfelder, NC Rural Center, and the Kerr-Tar Council of Governments. Please join us for any amount of time you can - your input and contributions are incredibly valuable! All are welcome. To register for Option 1 (Virtual Only, 10:30 am-12:00 pm), click HERE. To register for Option 2, (in person & virtual, 6:00-7:30 pm) click <u>HERE</u>. The in person session will be held at the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments office, located at 1724 Graham Avenue in Henderson, NC. More information on Kerr-Tar efforts and building a regional resiliency portfolio is available HERE.

EDA Funding in Kerr-Tar Region

On March 8, 2022, the US Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded a \$761,040 grant to the County of Vance, North Carolina, to make critical infrastructure improvements needed to support business growth in the Henderson-Vance Industrial Park. This project will promote job creation through roadway and sewer upgrades necessary for business expansion. This EDA grant is expected to create 50 jobs and generate \$3.2 million in private investment. "We can build a stronger future for all by making smart investments in roads, water systems, and other infrastructure," said Governor Roy Cooper. "Vance County is a great place to live, work, and raise a family, and this grant will help make necessary improvements and create more jobs."



"The EDA grant continues to move forward Vance County's efforts to further develop the Henderson-Vance Industrial Park and to create jobs and investment for the region," said Vance County Manager Jordan McMillen. "With nearly all businesses in the park expanding the past few years, this grant will prepare the next phase (Phase III) of the park for further growth. Vance County appreciates the assistance of the Kerr-Tar COG through the application and grant administration process--this would not have been possible without their assistance."

"This grant award is not only an essential component for the expansion of our Henderson-Vance Industrial Park, but it is also a great example of the collaborative efforts being made for economic development and growth in Vance County," said McKinley Perkinson, Director of Henderson-Vance County Economic Development Commission. "This grant will help provide much needed infrastructure upgrades to one of our major industrial parks, and will help the continuous efforts to provide new jobs in our community. I am thankful to everyone who helped make this grant possible on a local, regional, and state level."

Vance-Granville Community College received notification from EDA that the institution was awarded funding to provide technical assistance support for the development of a needs assessment and architectural design concept for a new facility to be constructed on the VGCC Workforce and Advanced Technical Training Center at the Franklin County campus. The new infrastructure will facilitate 21st century education and workforce training. In addition, the facility will encompass flex space spaces, adaptable technology necessary to address new training realities after COVID-19. Once completed, the project will increase employment, meet industry employment demands, and increase tax revenue within the service area for individuals interested in a new career, retraining, upskilling, or individuals marginalized throughout the employment and educational process.

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, in partnership with Triangle J Council of Governments and Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments received notification from EDA of funding to establish the Tri-COG Food Ecosystem Economic Development Strategy, a multiorganizational project supporting local food coalitions across North Carolina. The project will provide resources to study and develop a regional food system to address agriculture supply chain gaps augmented during COVID-19. The plan will ensure the development of a sustainable and equitable food system that allows new farms and food businesses to be created and expanded, allowing the region's communities to remain resilient in times of both crisis and prosperity.

New Regional Program Coordinator



Please help us welcome **Kenia Gomez-Jimenez** to the COG! Kenia, originally from Vance County and recent graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will be serving as the Regional Program Coordinator. In her capacity she will be responsible for administering both the Safe Routes to School program through the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Clean Fuel Advanced Technology (CFAT) program through the North Carolina Clean Technology Center at NC State. Kenia is thrilled to be back in her hometown and take part in local community empowerment.

Kenia believes it is imperative that we advocate for citizens of rural communities by taking action in improving their quality of life. When a community is empowered, it allows room for social, economic, and cultural growth. Please help us welcome Kenia to Region K!

Look Out for Potholes

A pothole usually forms in a road surface as a result of water seeping into pavement cracks and freezing during winter months. Because water expands when it freezes, the cracks become wider and deeper. Over time the larger cracks, combined with the weight of traffic, cause the pavement to break up. While potholes are more prevalent in early spring, they can occur year-round.



Repairing potholes is important because they can lead to more expensive road repairs, cause wear and tear on vehicles, make for bumpy rides, and pose safety risks.

Other Roadway Defects

Not all defects in the road are potholes. For various reasons, the top layer of pavement can break and form a shallow divot known as a delamination. NC Department of Transportation crews work proactively to maintain and repair about 80,000 miles of state-maintained roads. Because of the vast number of roads, NCDOT typically only patches delaminations if they are severe. There simply is not enough funding to patch every roadway imperfection.

Report a Pothole

NCDOT is committed to repairing potholes on state-maintained roads within two business days when they are reported using the <u>online pothole reporting system</u>. To report potholes on other roads, contact the local public works department. For other issues or concerns about state-maintained roads, <u>contact NCDOT</u> or call 1-877-DOT-4YOU (1-877-368-4968).

Rural Transformation Grant Fund

The Rural Economic Development Division's (REDD) Rural Transformation Grant Fund (RTGF) application cycle is open. The Fund, created by the North Carolina General Assembly in Session Law 2021-180 (S.105), has an available pool of \$48 million for grant-making in the four categories described below.

Rural Transformation Grants can support:

- Main Street and downtown investment and revitalization efforts;
- Initiatives that help create resilient neighborhoods;
- Community enhancements that spur economic growth;
- Professional development and education programs to build local government capacity

As North Carolina recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic and applies lessons from the public health emergency to improve community resiliency, the Rural Transformation Grant Fund offers a new resource to local government leaders as they guide their communities toward a brighter future.

Rural Transformation Grants are available to local governments in the state's Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties, as well as qualified census tracts in Tier 3 counties.

Rural Engagement and Investment Program Categories and Descriptions:

- Downtown Revitalization Support downtown revitalization and economic development initiatives that are intended to help local governments grow and leverage their Main Street and downtown districts as assets for economic growth, economic development, and prosperity. *Contact Liz Parham <u>Iparhamenccommerce.com</u>*
- Resilient Neighborhoods To create resilient neighborhoods through community development, neighborhood revitalization, economic investments, and quality of life improvements. Contact Valerie Fegans <u>valerie.fegansenccommerce.com</u>
- Community Enhancements for Economic Growth Provide grants to local governments in rural and distressed communities to support the acquisition of land an buildings, the preparation/development of neighborhood properties and business sites, and the removal of structural and physical barriers for the purpose of enhancing community growth and economic development opportunities. Contact Melody Adams <u>melody.adamsenccommerce.com</u>

NC Commerce Announces RC2 Program

The North Carolina Department of Commerce in partnership with Appalachian State University's Walker College of Business is launching the Rural Community Capacity (RC2) Program. RC2 is a university-based collaborative that will provide educational programming, technical assistance, capacity building, economic development consultation, and focused guidance to local governments in rural and distressed communities. The RC2 campus curriculum will include core courses that are required by the NC Department of Commerce and targeted courses that are designed by ASU faculty. Interested communities should complete the following form. Please note, the program only allows a maximum of two participants per local government unit.

Communities should contact Dr. Carol Kline, Professor and Hospitality & Tourism Management Program Director at ASU at <u>klinecs@appstate.edu</u> or Olivia Collier, ARC Program Manager with the NC Department of Commerce at <u>occollier@nccommerce.com</u> for more information about this unique opportunity.

Kerr-Tar Reentry Resource Fair

The Kerr-Tar Reentry Roundtable will host a Reentry Resource Fair and Expunction Clinic on **April 12, 2022 from 9:00 am-2:00 pm**. The event will be held at Hix Gym, located at 313 Sprint St in Oxford, NC. Second Chance Month will be celebrated, where individuals who are committed to rebuilding their lives can meet with local providers and learn about programs to overcome reentry barriers.



The Resource Fair is designed to bring together community resources and employment opportunities in one location to support the specific needs of the reentry and justiceinvolved community. A broad spectrum of services will be covered, including: employment opportunities, housing resources, healthcare resources, child support services, expungement, GED/HSED, literary services, training programs, and other support services. For more information, contact Sharon Thomas at 252-436-2040 or visit www.kerrtarworks.com.

Young Adult Hiring Event



NCWorks Career Center and the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board in partnership with the Five County Schools are holding a Young Adult Hiring Event on **Friday, April 29** at the Raleigh Road Outdoor Theatre in Henderson, NC. The event is exclusively for high school seniors from 9:30 am-2:00 pm but will be open to all young adults between the ages of 16-24 from 2:00-4:00 pm. Many employers in the Kerr-Tar Region will be onsite eager to meet soon-to-be-graduates planning to enter the workforce following graduation. This is a great opportunity for young adults to gain career awareness and learn about the industries in the Kerr-Tar Region. Make plans to attend this event! To stay informed of upcoming events, visit www.kerrtarworks.com. For more information, contact the NCWorks Career Center at 252-438-6129 or 919-693-2686.

Success Story: Wark Largrove

Mark Hargrove of Vance County enrolled in the WIOA youth program at Vance-Granville Community College to pursue CDL truck driving training in November 2021. The CDL training began January 10, 2022, and with hard work and dedication, Mark successfully completed the training on March 15, 2022. He didn't miss any hours from the class and received perfect attendance. He is currently seeking employment.



Success Story: Antonio Reid

Antonio Reid enrolled into WIOA services in December 2021 to attend CDL training at Regal Driving Academy. Prior to attending training he was laid off from FedEx due to Covid. After an extended period of unemployment, he decided that he wanted to try something new and get his CDL. Mr. Reid began training on December 13, 2021 and successfully completed his training and received his CDL on March 21, 2022. He has received several job offers and is now deciding which he will accept. Whatever he chooses next, he has the determination to be successful.



Franklin County Job Fair Recap

The Kerr-Tar Workforce Board/NCWorks Career Center held a Regional Job Fair at the Franklin Plaza in Louisburg on Friday, March 18 in partnership with Franklin County Economic Development, Town of Louisburg, Vance-Granville Community College, and Piedmont Community College. The event was a huge success with 23 employers/community resources present and over 60 people in attendance. Burger 21 and Kona Ice were also onsite offering a great selection of food and treats. Many connections were made, partnerships were created, and job offers were extended at this event. Visit www.kerrtarworks.com to stay updated on future events. Contact the NCWorks Career Center for more information on services available.





Participating Employers/Resources

Captive Aire | Corner Clean | County of Franklin | Fast QSR | Franklin Correctional Center/DPS GKN Automotive | Granville County DSS | Hardee's | Holden Temporary Services | Huff Consulting KARTS | Louisburg College | Maria Parham Health | Maxim Healthcare Services NuAngels Home Care | PCC | Sirchie | TRIO | VGCC | Versatrim | Walmart Distribution



VISION 2022 Regional Workforce Summit

On Thursday, March 31, the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, in partnership with Duke Energy and Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board, presented VISION 2022: Reimagining Tomorrow's Workforce Today, a regional economic development summit. The event was held in Roxboro, NC at The Kirby Cultural Arts Complex and highlighted the changes in workforce since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 212 people were in attendance from across the 5 county region and beyond.

The day began with remarks from local leaders, as well as event sponsors, followed by special remarks from NC Department of Commerce Chief Deputy Secretary Jordan Whichard. Session 1 was "Workforce Transformation & the Post-Pandemic Economy," and featured Tom Barkin, CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and Ted Abernathy, Managing Partner of Economic Leadership, LLC. Session 2, titled "Human Resources in the Age of the Great Resignation" was a panel discussion focused on the changing nature of employee attraction, new demands, and how companies are rising to meet the challenge of increased worker demands and featured HR professionals in the region. The final session covered the topic of "Preparing a Talent Pipeline" and how industry, school systems, and community colleges can create a symbiotic partnership that is beneficial to all involved.

Closing out the event was keynote speaker Peyton Holland, Speaker/Consultant & Executive Director of the National Technical Honor Society. He tied all the sessions together to demonstrate the importance of all aspects of our workforce in our economy. Vision 2022 was made possible by collaborative partners including Franklin County Economic Development Commission, Granville County Economic Development Commission, Granville County Chamber of Commerce, Person County Economic Development Commission, Roxboro Area Chamber of Commerce, Henderson-Vance County Economic Development Commission, Henderson-Vance County Chamber of Commerce, Warren County Economic Development Commission, Piedmont Community College, and Vance-Granville Community College. Special thanks to the Kirby Cultural Arts Complex for providing the venue.









COMMUNITIES SERVED

Franklin County Granville County Person County Vance County Warren County Town of Bunn Town of Butner <u>City of Creedmoor</u> Town of Franklinton City of Henderson Town of Kittrell Town of Louisburg Town of Macon Town of Middleburg Town of Norlina City of Oxford City of Roxboro Town of Stem Town of Stovall Town of Warrenton Town of Youngsville

Executive Director

Diane Cox dcox@kerrtarcog.org

Area Agency on Aging

Nancy Francis <u>nfrancis@kerrtarcog.org</u>

Planning & Development

Michael Kelly mkelly@kerrtarcog.org

Workforce Development

Lou Grillo <u>Igrillo@kerrtarcog.org</u>

MISSION STATEMENT

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments aims to promote regionalism that provides opportunities for local governments to enhance and improve the quality of life for our citizens through effective delivery of services and programs.

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments

1724 Graham Avenue PO Box 709 Henderson, NC 27536 Phone | (252) 436-2040 Fax | (252) 436-2055 info@kerrtarcog.org | kerrtarcog.org

