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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAR 8	Daylight Saving Time: March 8 th at 2 a.m.
MAR 10	Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board Meeting: March 10 th at 6 p.m., COG Office
MAR 12	New COG Board Member Orientation March 12 th at 6 p.m.; Butner Town Hall
MAR 19	TAC/TCC Meeting March 19 th at 3 p.m., COG Office
MAR 20	Kerr-Tar Senior Games Opening Ceremonies Louisburg Magnet High School: 10 a.m.
MAR 26	Kerr-Tar Regional COG Executive Board Meeting: March 26 th at noon (Virtual)

GOLDEN LEAF GRANTS \$10M TO DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NORTH CENTRAL NC

The Golden LEAF Foundation Board awarded \$9,959,051 in funding for 11 projects through the **Community-Based Grants Initiative in the North Central Prosperity Zone**.



These projects will support job creation and economic investment, workforce preparedness, and agriculture in **Durham, Edgecombe, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Nash, Person, and Wilson counties**.

Projects funded in the Kerr-Tar region include:

- \$600,000 to Henderson-Oxford Airport Authority supporting Vance and Granville counties to construct a 12-inch water main extension to serve current and future hangars and support job creation.
- \$750,000 to Vance-Granville Community College serving Granville, Vance, Franklin, and Warren counties for equipment, supplies, and construction of the new Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Applied Technology, supporting workforce training in high-demand programs.
- \$1,000,000 to Piedmont Community College in Person County for equipment to expand and relocate the welding program to its South Campus, increasing student capacity and industry credential attainment.

NORTH CAROLINIANS INVITED TO COMMEMORATE AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2026



This year, America is commemorating 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the creation of a new nation dedicated to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) will be leading NC's commemoration of this historic event through an initiative known as **America 250**. You can find numerous events across the state celebrating the 250th anniversary on the [America 250 NC events calendar](#).

[Read a Governor's Office news release](#) that highlights three signature events in Currie, Halifax and Raleigh.

Learn more about North Carolina's commemorative activities, explore history, find events and share your story at america250.nc.gov

GOVERNOR STEIN ANNOUNCES \$472 MILLION FOR DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

Governor Josh Stein announced that 145 projects in 66 counties across the state will receive more than \$472 million in funding for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

The awards, a combination of grants and loans, will help cities, towns and counties strengthen infrastructure to better withstand future storms, improve existing drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, reduce contamination by forever chemicals, and identify and replace lead pipes.

“Families and businesses expect and deserve safe water when they turn on the tap,” said DEQ Secretary Reid Wilson. “The funded projects will strengthen aging drinking water and wastewater systems and will support healthy communities and a growing economy.”

Kerr-Tar Projects Include:

Town of Louisburg, Water Treatment Plant Sludge Disposal \$8,752,395

Town of Louisburg, Sewer Asset Inventory & Assessment \$120,000

South Granville Water & Sewer Authority, Post-Filter PFAS Treatment Improvements \$10,658,880

Town of Warrenton, Water Asset Inventory & Assessment \$150,000

Town of Warrenton, Wastewater Asset Inventory & Assessment \$150,000

NC DEQ’s Division of Water Infrastructure reviewed 198 eligible applications,

which requested a total of \$1.89 billion. The State Water Infrastructure Authority approved the awards during its Feb. 18 meeting. The authority is an independent body with primary responsibility for awarding federal and state funding for water infrastructure projects.

Funding this round came from:

- The State Revolving Funds (SRFs), which provide low-interest loans (including loans that may be partially forgiven) for drinking water and wastewater projects.
- The SRF Supplemental Appropriations for Hurricanes Helene and Milton and Hawai’i Wildfires (SRF Helene) funding, which provides principal forgiveness and zero-interest loans for eligible drinking water, wastewater and septic systems for Hurricane Helene-damaged communities.
- The Community Development Block Grant-Infrastructure (CDBG-I) program, which provides grants to fund projects in areas that meet the U.S. Housing and Urban Development low- to moderate-income threshold.
- The State Reserve Program for construction projects, in which grant funding is prioritized for applicants from counties that have populations of less than 300,000 and that were most damaged by Hurricane Helene.
- The state Viable Utility Reserve grant funding for drinking water and wastewater projects that move a local government unit designated as distressed toward viability. This includes grant funding for Asset Inventory and Assessment grants and Merger/Regionalization Feasibility grants.

A list of all projects selected for funding is available on the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) [website](#).

DIVISION OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ANNOUNCES SPRING 2026 FUNDING APPLICATION TRAINING



The Division of Water Infrastructure will conduct its **Spring 2026 Funding Application Training Feb. 23 - March 4** at three locations statewide, including a March 4 virtual option that will be recorded and posted on the Division’s website.

Spring 2026 funding applications must be received by the Division no later than 5 p.m. on April 30, 2026. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to attend training. There is no cost to register. For this funding round, low-interest loans and grant funding for drinking water and wastewater projects are available.

RSVP by [registering online](#) prior to the desired session. All training sessions contain the same content. Application materials will be available on the [Division website](#) before training begins.

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026,
at Research Triangle Park,
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Central Pines Regional Council
(Longleaf Room)
4307 Emperor Boulevard, Suite 110,
Durham, NC 27703

**A virtual option is also available on this day
only.**

Webex link for online participation:
[https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?
MTID=mb55fe9c1162cf5434bc37a86d9cbf903](https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=mb55fe9c1162cf5434bc37a86d9cbf903)
**(Password: NCDWI, Call-In #: 415.655.0003,
Access Code: 2426 093 0718)**

A recording of the training will be available on the [Division’s website](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: ASSET INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT GRANT

The NC Department of Environmental Quality is accepting Asset Inventory and Assessment grant applications.

The NC Department of Environmental Quality is accepting Asset Inventory and Assessment grant applications. These grants are intended to help local governments and nonprofit water corporations to effectively manage and finance their water and wastewater utility systems. This can be done through funding projects, including asset inventories, condition assessments of infrastructure, and long-term planning. The grant is up to \$150,000 over three years, sourced from the Wastewater Reserve or the Drinking Water Reserve.

For more information, contact Matthew Rushing at (919) 707-9060 or at Matthew.rushing@deq.nc.gov

NCDOT REFINES STATEWIDE EV CHARGING PLAN

NCDOT officials are shifting their strategy to expand electric vehicle charging access where it's needed most. With updated federal guidance providing more flexibility, **NCDOT plans to scale back new stations** along already built-out interstate corridors and redirect more of the state's \$109 million National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) funding to rural communities, underserved areas and highways with limited coverage.

The department will move forward with 16 additional sites along alternative fuel corridors while prioritizing new investments in areas with fewer existing chargers.

A request for proposals is expected in late March, giving private partners the opportunity to help strengthen and expand North Carolina's statewide EV charging network.



The NC Clean Energy Technology Center's Q2 Energy Insights Webinar will be led by the Clean Power & Industrial Efficiency (CPIE) team. Join us from 12:00 - 1:00pm EST on March 5, 2026, as we discuss how onsite energy generation is an important tool to meet new data center energy needs. This webinar, hosted by the DOE Southeast Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnership (TAP) and NCCETC will be informative for end users, utilities and policymakers looking for ways to navigate in these fast times.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



NC
MedAssist
MOBILE FREE PHARMACY

OTC MEDICINE GIVEAWAY & COMMUNITY EVENT

Friday, March 13, 2026
9AM — 2PM

Vance Granville Community College
Civic Center
200 Community College Road
Henderson, NC 27537

Take home free over-the-counter medicine, including allergy, cough and cold, pain relief, vitamins, children's medicine, and more! Order ahead online and schedule a pick up time or simply walk in to select your **FREE** medicines. Pick up for family members too!

!! OPEN TO ALL NC RESIDENTS !!

Walks-ups welcome | No income requirements | No I.D. required
Must be 18+ to receive medicines

ONLINE ORDERING OPENS: **2/13/2026**
ONLINE ORDERING CLOSES: **3/6/2026***

**Or when a maximum 500 orders placed*



To preorder, scan the QR code
or visit [medassist.org/mobile](https://www.medassist.org/mobile)

This program has been brought to your
community by:



In partnership with:



NC MedAssist is a statewide, nonprofit pharmacy that provides free prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications through three core programs. Learn more at www.medassist.org.



REGION K ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS & PREVENTION *Conference & Walk*



Friday, June 12, 2026

10:00 am-2:00 pm

<p>FREE & Open to the Public</p>	<p>Warren County Armory Convention Center 501 US Hwy 158 Bus E, Warrenton, NC 27589</p>	<p>Free t-shirts, lunch, & goodies available (while supplies last)</p>
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Wear **PURPLE & SILVER** to show the world you care about ending elder abuse and/or decorate your vehicle, in support. We will recognize each participant that displays their support for Elder Abuse Awareness & Prevention.

Want to be a Exhibitor or Volunteer?
Please scan the QR code or visit:
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/4vnfp6s>

For more information, contact:

Nyasha Woodard,
Adult Service
Warren County DSS
(252) 257- 5000

Kimberly Hawkins
Kerr-Tar Area
Agency on Aging
(252) 436-2040

**SCAN HERE
to be a exhibitor
or sponsor!**



A MATTER OF BALANCE AT SOUTH GRANVILLE SENIOR CENTER

During January and February 2026, participants gathered at the South Granville Senior Center for the A Matter of Balance program. This eight-week, evidence-based course is designed to help older adults reduce their risk of falls and stay active.

The class was hosted by Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging Specialist Crystal Allen and South Granville Senior Center Program Coordinator Christy South, both certified Master Trainers in A Matter of Balance. Throughout the program, participants learned practical strategies to view falls as controllable, set goals to increase activity, reduce fall risks at home, and improve strength and balance through exercise.



2026 KERR-TAR REGIONAL SENIOR GAMES AND SILVER ARTS OPENING CEREMONY

Join us on March 20th at 10:00 am for the 2026 Kerr-Tar Regional Senior Games and Silver Arts Opening Ceremony. Franklin County Aging Services is hosting the Opening Ceremony at the Louisburg Magnet High School. You will have the opportunity to hear from local dignitaries as we celebrate the start of three months of activities for more than 200 participants.



For more information, please contact Crystal Allen at callen@kerrtaracog.org or 252-436-2040 ext. 2036 .

STATEWIDE VIRTUAL TAI CHI



Free Statewide Virtual Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Workshop offered by Healthy Aging NC in the New Year!

These workshops are open at no cost to NC residents with internet access and are supported by a CDC Grant.

Dates: Every week on Tuesday, Thursday | March 5 through April 30, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EDT



[Sign up now](#) and share with community members/patients



BINGOCIZE



Looking for a fun new way to be more active?

Bingocize is a 10-week health promotion program that combines the game of bingo with fall prevention exercise. Come play bingo and meet new people while learning about techniques to reduce falls. Classes are being held March 2, 2026- May 22, 2026. Space is limited. Contact Granville County Senior Center at 919-693-1930 to register!



SHIIP

SENIORS' HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION PROGRAM

N.C. Department of Insurance • Mike Causey, Commissioner
855-408-1212 (toll free) • www.ncdoi.gov

MARCH IS

NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Colorectal cancer is the fourth-most common cancer in the U.S. and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths.

It affects all racial and ethnic groups and is most often found in people ages 50 and older.

Screening and early detection are vital.

Medicare covers certain colorectal cancer screening services—ask a SHIIP counselor for more information.

Colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable and beatable!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: CRYSTAL ALLEN @ 252-436-2040

MARCH IS NUTRITION MONTH

“Discover the Power of Nutrition” is the theme for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics National Nutrition Month. Nutrition plays an important role in helping individuals and communities to thrive. Accessing healthy foods and building healthy habits will give you the choices needed to power your day.

The Academy's website www.eatright.org/national-nutrition-month has more resources.



MEALS ON WHEELS COMMUNITY CHAMPION WEEK



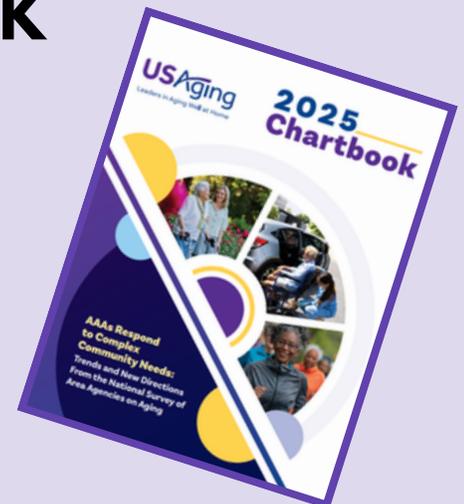
The Older Americans Act Nutrition Program became law on March 22, 1972. It created a national senior nutrition network that provides vital meal services and social connections.

We want to invite community leaders to join the celebration by volunteering at your local Meals on Wheels program during March 23-27. To find out more about your local Meals on Wheels program, please contact your local senior center or Alan Winstead at awinstead@kerrtarco.org.

KERR-TAR AAA FEATURED IN US AGING'S NEW CHARTBOOK

Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging is proud to represent our community as part of the national Aging Network! @theUSAging's new AAA Survey Chartbook showcases the impact Area Agencies on Aging have across the country—including work like ours to help older adults live independently with dignity.

Dive into the full Chartbook: bit.ly/4oRxeQG



KERR-TAR RPO ADOPTS NEW METHODOLOGY FOR PRIORITIZING TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS



The Kerr-Tar Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RPO) has formally adopted a new methodology for prioritizing and funding major transportation projects within the region, which includes Person, Granville, Vance, Warren, and Franklin counties. This new process aligns with North Carolina's Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law, which emphasizes a data-driven approach to project selection combined with local input.

The methodology categorizes projects into three tiers: Statewide Mobility, Regional Impact, and Division Needs. While statewide projects are selected based entirely on quantitative data, regional and division-level projects will be evaluated using a hybrid model that incorporates both quantitative scores and local input points. The Kerr-Tar RPO will assign these local input points based on a set of defined criteria, ensuring that local priorities are reflected in the final project selections.

This structured and transparent process aims to ensure that funding is allocated to projects that will have the most significant positive impact on the region's transportation network. The methodology details the specific criteria and weights that will be used to score projects, as well as the process for public input and comment.

For a comprehensive understanding of the new project prioritization process, the Kerr-Tar RPO encourages all interested parties to review the complete methodology [here](#).



15th Annual NC BikeWalk Transportation Summit September 17th-19th, 2026 Carolina Beach, NC



The 2026 NC BikeWalk Transportation Summit will take place September 17 to 19, 2026 in Carolina Beach and will bring together transportation professionals, advocates, public officials and community leaders working to advance safety, health and equity on North Carolina roads.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments makes loans for the purpose of creating or retaining jobs in the region. The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) can provide financing to purchase or develop land for industrial and commercial facilities including new buildings, or the renovation of abandoned buildings. Other eligible expenditures include working capital and purchase of machinery and equipment.

The main objective of the RLF program is to reduce unemployment by creating or retaining jobs.

Loans are available for up to \$200,000 with low interest at 4 basis points below prime. Each loan depends on the type and amount of your project.

Contact Desiree Brooks at 252-436-2040 or dbrooks@kerrtarco.org to learn more!



KERR-TAR REGIONAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESOURCES



A list of food distribution services in Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance and Warren Counties are now available on our website!

[CLICK HERE](#)



Food Security Partnership project sponsored by Triangle North Healthcare Foundation



MARCH 17



Visit [Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council](#) | [Kerr Tar COG](#) to learn more about the Food Council, policies and resources.



MARCH 8

Kerr-Tar Regional Summit to Be Held at McGregor Hall

Mark for our upcoming Kerr-Tar Regional Summit! This year's summit will be held on October 8, 2026 in Vance County at the McGregor Hall Performing Arts Center! Join us as leaders across the region and abroad gather to learn more about Economic Development in our rural region. Stay tuned for the reveal of this year's theme and more information!



We are currently seeking sponsors for the summit. If you are interested in sponsoring, please contact Desiree Brooks at 252-436-2040 or dbrooks@kerrtarco.org.

2025 North Carolina Legislation Related to Planning and Development

During the legislative long session in 2025, the North Carolina General Assembly made notable changes to the laws related to planning and development regulations.

Zoning topics included down-zoning (a carryover from late 2024), flag regulations, waiting periods for reapplication, and split jurisdiction.

Infrastructure topics included pavement standards for subdivision streets, regionalization of local utilities, and new transportation-funding alternatives. The General Assembly amended environmental laws, including those concerning Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) water permits, 401 water-quality certifications, stormwater permits, and more. Helene-recovery legislation from 2024 was notably amended and updated in 2025. The General Assembly adopted changes, large and small, to the State Building Code; most notably, implementation of the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code was further delayed.



Click [Here](#) for the UNC School of Government Planning and Zoning Law Bulletin.

CHAMBER CAREER & CONNECT EVENT AT NCWORKS CAREER CENTER

On February 4, the NCWorks Career Center presented at the Chamber Career & Connect event hosted by the Vance County Chamber of Commerce, bringing together employers, community members, and workforce partners to discuss workforce services across the Kerr-Tar region.



Attendees learned how NCWorks and the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments support businesses through no-cost services such as recruitment assistance, candidate screening, hiring events, on-the-job training, and incumbent

worker training. Job seekers also benefit from career counseling, resume support, training opportunities, and direct employer connections.

Following the event, a meeting was scheduled with Vance County Commissioner Valencia Perry to further discuss workforce initiatives and strengthen partnerships with local leadership. The event reinforced NCWorks and Kerr-Tar's role in connecting employers and job seekers while supporting the region's economic growth.

HEALTH INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

Healthcare leaders, educators, and workforce partners gathered in Franklin County for a Health Industry Roundtable hosted by NCWorks and the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board. The event focused on addressing workforce challenges, strengthening talent pipelines, and meeting the region's growing demand for healthcare professionals.



Held in Youngsville, the roundtable included employers from Franklin, Vance, Granville, Warren, and Person counties. Discussions centered on recruitment, retention, training capacity, and long-term workforce sustainability.

The event followed a successful roundtable in Vance County and expanded regional collaboration efforts, with participation from Wake AHEC to provide insight on training pathways.

Employers highlighted ongoing demand for nurses, medical assistants, and allied health professionals, as well as barriers such as workforce shortages and retention challenges.

The roundtable reinforced the importance of partnerships among employers, workforce agencies, community colleges, and economic development organizations to build career pathways and connect job seekers to high-demand healthcare careers. Organizers plan to continue collaboration through future initiatives, including potential job fairs and expanded training efforts.

WORKFORCE LEADERS ATTEND ADVANCENC CONVENING AT SAS INSTITUTE



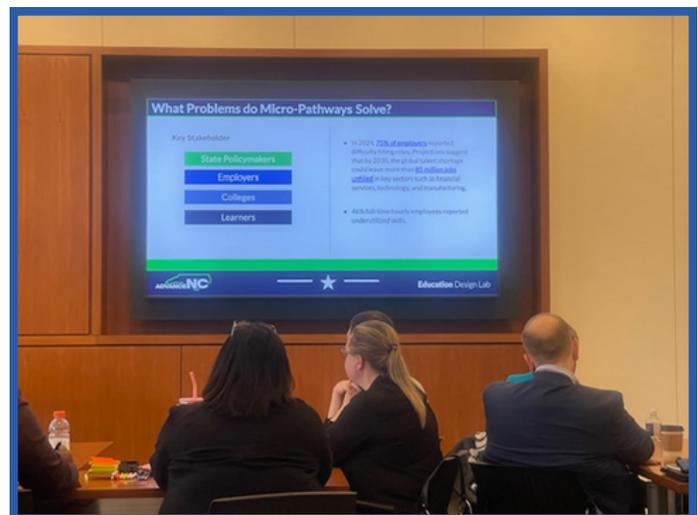
Workforce leaders from across North Carolina gathered February 9–10, 2026, at SAS Institute in Cary for the AdvanceNC Overall Convening, a statewide event focused on strengthening workforce development through micro-pathways and regional collaboration.

The event brought together workforce boards, educators, employers, and state partners to align strategies that support job seekers and meet business workforce needs.

Sessions highlighted progress through AdvanceNC and emphasized micro-pathways—short-term training programs designed to quickly build skills aligned with employer demand. Interactive tracks addressed reducing barriers to employment, aligning credentials with industry needs, and developing shared data metrics to measure impact.

Regional working sessions allowed partners to co-design solutions tailored to their communities, with a focus on expanding access to training, strengthening employer partnerships, and creating clearer pathways to high-demand fields such as manufacturing, healthcare, and skilled trades.

The convening reinforced statewide alignment and continued efforts to connect individuals to meaningful careers while helping employers build strong talent pipelines.



Visit advancenc.com to learn more!

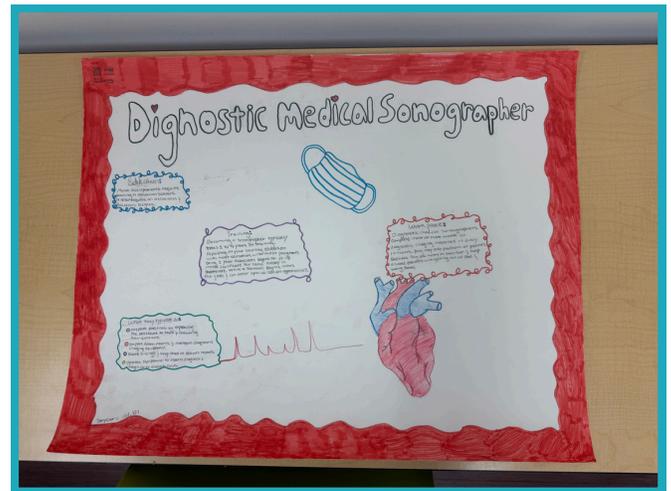
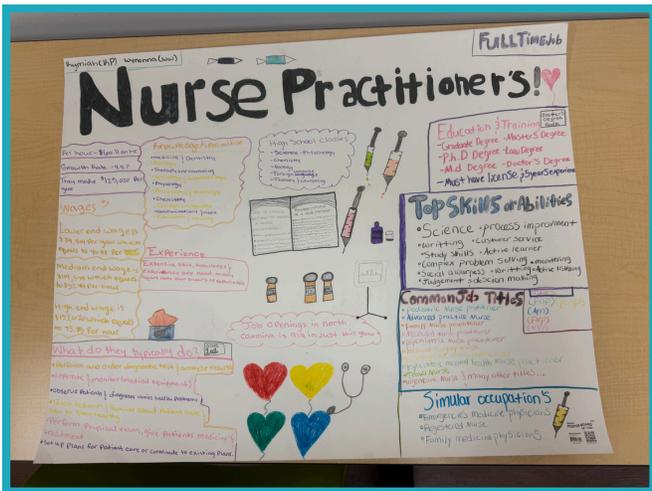
ECKERD GIRLS SUCCESS STORY

The NCWorks NextGen Program is proud to partner with Eckerd Connects and the Girls Residential Academy at Kerr Lake to support young women as they prepare for successful futures.

NCWorks NextGen staff recently launched a new cohort of the Work Readiness Series, designed to equip participants with essential career skills. The series includes sessions on women in the workplace, resume development, soft skills, mock interviews, and Labor Market Information (LMI) to help students make informed decisions about their career pathways.

As part of the program, eight young women completed an in-depth Labor Market Information project. Using NCCareers.org, they researched potential career paths, exploring key details such as average wages, required education and training, opportunities for advancement, and job demand. Each participant created a visual presentation board and shared her findings with the group. The knowledge and confidence they gained will serve as a strong foundation for their future careers.

The cohort will continue building on this momentum with a visit to the NCWorks Career Center on February 24, where they will participate in a Virtual Reality experience and explore hands-on simulations of some of the careers they researched. This interactive opportunity will bring their career exploration to life and further inspire their next steps.



Follow us on social media to stay updated!

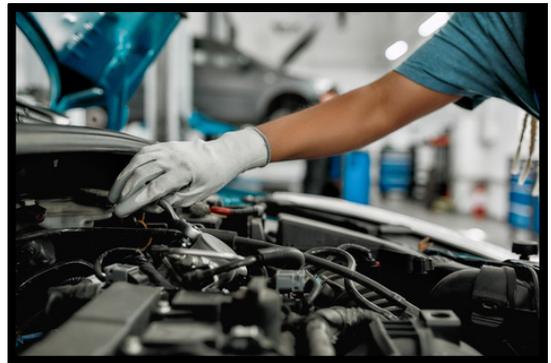


SUCCESS STORY: AUTOMOTIVE CAREER GROWTH

James Goodine, a Veteran, came to the program with prior automotive experience but lacked formal certification and was seeking to expand his skills to further advance his career in automotive mechanics. NCWorks Staff worked closely with the customer to update and enhance his resume by improving formatting, and strategically highlighting his automotive background, technical abilities, and related skills developed through his military experience. This ensured his qualifications were clearly presented and aligned with employer expectations.

Through a strong partnership with Pete Smith Automotive, NCWorks staff were able to connect him with a direct hire opportunity. As a result, he secured full-time employment as an Automotive Technician, positioning him for long-term career growth in the automotive industry.

James is excited to continue building his skills and advancing on his journey in automotive mechanics. His success reflects the impact of WIOA services, dedicated staff support, and strong employer partnerships in helping individuals achieve meaningful, sustainable employment.

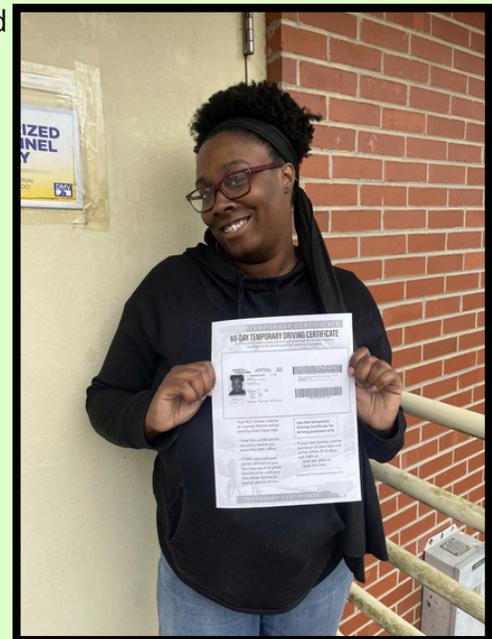


SUCCESS STORY: DRIVEN TO SUCCEED

When life presented unexpected challenges, S. Dimming refused to let her goals slip away. Originally, she was scheduled to start in the October CDL-B training at Vance, but she had to postpone enrollment due to unforeseen personal circumstances. While stepping back was not an easy decision, she remained committed to her long-term career goal.

With support from the NCWorks Staff, Dimming stayed connected and focused during that time. When the next training opportunity became available in January, she was ready. She enrolled in the CDL-B program with renewed determination and successfully completed the course February 20th!

Today, she proudly holds her CDL-B license and is excited about the career opportunities now within reach. Earning her CDL is more than just a credential, it represents perseverance and a commitment to building a stable future.



Happy Birthday!



Cindy Pernell
March 31st

Happy Anniversary!



Katie Conner
10 Years



Michael Patterson
4 Years

Kerr-Tar

Regional Council of Governments

COMMUNITIES SERVED

Franklin County
Granville County
Person County
Vance County
Warren County
Town of Bunn
Town of Butner
City of Creedmoor
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@kerrtarco.org

Area Agency on Aging

Alan Winstead

awinstead@kerrtarco.org

Community & Economic Development

Desiree Brooks

dbrooks@kerrtarco.org

Workforce Development

Lou Grillo

lgrillo@kerrtarco.org

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

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Henderson, NC 27536

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