

# Kerr-Tar

Regional Council  
Of Governments

## Annual Report 2014-2015



**Kerr Tar Regional STEM Education Summit  
April 21, 2015**

**Mission Statement: To promote regionalism that provides opportunities for local governments to enhance and improve the quality of life for our citizens through the effective delivery of services and programs.**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Franklin

Junious Debnam

Sidney Dunston \*

Dazale Kearney

Marsha Strawbridge - Bunn

Elic Senter \* - Franklinton

Joe Shearon \* - Louisburg

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Quon Bridges - Oxford

Kevin Easter - Stem

Michael Williford - Stovall

## Person

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## Vance

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James O'Geary \* - Henderson

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Robert Evans - Macon

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\* Indicates an Executive Committee Member



## 2014/2015 Officers

Treasurer: Barry Richardson

Commissioner, Warren County

Vice Chairman: Tommy Hester

Commissioner, Vance County

Chairman: Elic A. Senter

Mayor, Town of Franklinton



Passing of the gavel at the 2014 Annual Awards Banquet.



## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS



It's been a fantastic year for our five county region, through the work of our Regional Council of Governments. The Kerr-Tar region continues to work together to ensure that our citizens receive the best services possible, while ensuring their efficient and effective delivery. From another great year of the Senior Games and our continued work supporting senior citizens through the Area Agency on Aging, to our work supporting counties and towns in zoning, program and grant administration, the staff and volunteers of the Kerr-Tar COG bring strong added value to our region. Their work is part of what continues to make our five counties among the most desirable in the state in which to live, work, and grow.

This year, our region embarked on a new endeavor, in support of education in our region. The very first Kerr-Tar Regional STEM Education Summit was held in April, the culmination of a year's worth of efforts by elected

officials, educators and business leaders across the region. Following a great deal of planning, participants in the summit spent a full day together hearing from experts in the field of STEM education, hearing about different programs across the region the state, and discussing ways in which we can improve education and career opportunities across our five counties. Though the results of the Summit, and the Steering Committee's recommendations, are found in a separate report, I cannot share my appreciation strongly enough for our COG staff and volunteers who were involved in this effort, and in particular, Executive Director Diane Cox, who shepherded this vision through the culminating experience in April.

Our Board of Directors continues their hard work of serving the citizens of this region, through the services of the Council of Governments. Our commitment to ensuring a better and stronger Region K continues to be the foundation upon which we build our programs and support. If 2014-15 is any indication, the citizens of our region will only see brighter days ahead thanks to the great work of this Council of Governments.

*Elic A. Senter, 2014-15 Chairman*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (KTRCOG) began 43 years ago with the vision of working across jurisdictional lines to develop regional solutions to the challenges that face us. The spirit of regionalism—communities working together— continues to guide our work. As we work closely with our members, collaborating with other partners, tapping resources, taking advantage of the not-so-obvious opportunities and sharing with each other, we achieve successful outcomes together.

I want to publicly thank the KTRCOG Board of Directors for their commitment and dedication to service on behalf of the people who live here in our region. I want to thank the many volunteers serving on committees and giving tirelessly of their time and I want to thank the great team of people who come to work here at KTRCOG every day to serve the membership of this organization.

Lastly, I would like to thank Town of Franklinton Mayor Elic Senter who served as our Board Chair this past year. His advice and leadership were very important throughout a year that saw many agency accomplishments and successful endeavors.

*Diane Cox, Executive Director*





# AREA AGENCY ON AGING

## Family Caregiver Support Program

The National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP), funded by the federal Older Americans Act – Title III E, helps persons any age who serve as unpaid caregivers for persons sixty and older.

Most caregivers receiving assistance have been providing heavy-duty care for a while with little support when they hear about this program. With this funding, having a caregiver is a requirement for service. The goal of the program is to relieve the emotional, physical, and financial hardships of providing continual care.

Family Caregiver Support	
County	Allocation
Franklin	\$5,088.00
Granville	\$15,356.00
Person	\$10,384.00
Vance	\$9,794.00
Warren	\$12,000.00
Totals	\$52,622.00

120 Caregivers in the Kerr-Tar region received services. Services offered include:

Information and assistance to caregivers about resources;

Counseling and support groups;

Respite care to enable caregivers to be temporarily relieved from their caregiving responsibilities; and

Supplemental services on a limited basis.

## Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Long-Term Care Ombudsmen are advocates for residents of nursing homes and adult care facilities. They work to resolve problems of individual residents and to bring about changes at the local, state and national levels that will improve residents' care and quality of life. During 2014-15, the Kerr-Tar Regional Ombudsman:

- Investigated 75 complaints and made 120 facility visits.
- Facilitated 27 Community Education Events including: Aging Sensitivity, Residents Rights, Ombudsman Program, and Ethics and Confidentiality.
- Conducted 16 Facility Staff Trainings including: Residents Rights, Ethics and Confidentiality, Elder Abuse Awareness, Sensitivity Training, Team Building, Professional Caregiving, Safe/Law Enforcement and Long Term Care Provider Collaborative.
- Provided training and oversight to 33 Community Advisory Committee Members
- Assisted with 600 individual requests for information.



**First Annual Elder  
Abuse Walk  
June 2, 2015  
Huck Sansbury Complex**



# AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The Area Agency on Aging's (AAA) mission of empowering senior citizens is achieved through advocacy and education. The AAA seeks to enhance living standards, provide responsive services, maximize tax dollar use, coordinate local programs and assist aging services providers in the five county Kerr Tar region.

## Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG)

The Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging administers and monitors the Home and Community Block Grant for five counties. County aging service providers were allocated over \$1.8 million dollars in order to provide services such as in- home assistance, congregate and home delivered meals, transportation, and other senior services.

### 2014-2015 Funding Allocations

County	HCCBG	Senior Center General Purpose	Total
Franklin	444,201	7,786	451,987
Granville	394,360	19,466	413,826
Person	322,680	11,680	334,360
Vance	335,712	11,680	347,392
Warren	269,652	11,680	281,632
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,766,905</b>	<b>62,292</b>	<b>1,829,197</b>

### 2014-2015 Clients Served

County	Units Served	People Served	At/Below Poverty Level
Franklin	32,222	495	288
Granville	42,814	457	82
Person	23,447	155	82
Vance	35,470	288	174
Warren	32,000	254	123
<b>Total</b>	<b>165,953</b>	<b>1,649</b>	<b>749</b>

## Local Contact Agency (LCA)

Kerr-Tar AAA is the local designated agency by the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) to be responsible for contacting individuals in nursing homes who have expressed interest in receiving information regarding transitioning from the facility back into the community, discussing service/support options, and offering contact information that may facilitate transition . Kerr-Tar received 11 LCA referrals and provided counseling.



# AREA AGENCY ON AGING

## Aging Special Projects



**Care Transitions to the Community and Home Program**—The Care Transitions to the Community and Home Program (CATCH) is a hospital-to-home transitions program for the patient with original Medicare that is based on the Care Transitions Intervention. This is a free program to members of our region being discharged from the hospital to home. CATCH is designed to help patients manage their transition from the hospital to home with the needed supports in place to reduce hospital readmissions and emergency department visits. Since the implementation of the program we have provided support services for over 140 patients.



**“Relay for Extra Help”**—a program funded under the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) of 2008 mandate to provide outreach and application assistance to persons eligible for the federal Low Income Subsidy (LIS) and Medicare Savings Programs (MSP). These programs help Medicare recipients save money on their prescription drug costs and their Medicare premiums and copayments. Presentations, one to one counseling and outreach events were conducted throughout the region reaching over 844 seniors and their caregivers.



**Evidence-Based Health Promotion Programs** - The Evidence-Based Health Promotion Program initiative was designed to expand seniors' access to effective interventions in the effort to reduce their risk of disease, injury, and disability. The program has been proven to empower older adults to take control of their health. These programs are rooted in tested models and designed to meet health needs through community and environmental partnerships. Programs offered include: Living Healthy with Diabetes, Living Healthy with Chronic Disease, Chronic Pain Self Management, Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program and Matter of Balance.

## Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities (5310) Grant



Kerr Tar COG applied for and received a 2-year, \$600,000 grant from NCDOT to provide medical transportation assistance to elderly and/or disabled citizens in the region. 200 elderly and/or disabled adults received transportation to dialysis appointments, adult daycare programs, physical therapy appointments, doctors office visits and cancer treatment services. Over 25,900 trips were provided in the 2014-2015 fiscal year with grant funding.



**Operation Fan/Heat Relief** - Kerr Tar AAA collaborated with the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services and county aging services providers to purchase and distribute 217 fans to older adults. Funds were provided by Duke Energy and Duke Energy Progress.



# AREA AGENCY ON AGING



## Region K Senior Games

Senior Games is a holistic approach to keeping the body, mind, and spirit fit while enjoying the company of friends, family, spectators and volunteers.

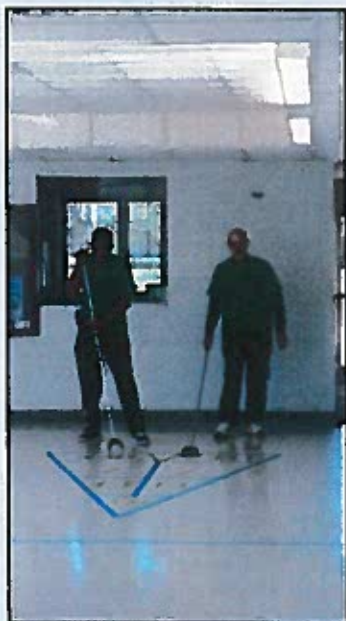
Region K Senior Games kicked off with Opening Ceremonies at the D. N. Hix gymnasium on March 27, 2014. 269 older adults participated in the combined activities of the Senior Games and Silver Arts. Events such as bowling, basketball, table tennis, golf and horseshoes were held in venues throughout the region. The Games concluded with Silver Arts and Awards Ceremony at the Person County Office Building on May 14th.



Left photo: Ellen Jenkins and Juanita Toolles enjoy the day of Bowling.



Right photo: Reggie Carter of Warren County wins Best in Show at Silver Arts for his dance performance to a Michael Jackson song!



Wilbert Wilkins and Rick Seekins both go for the GOLD in the Shuffleboard competition.



Virginia Broach and Sylvia Starks participated in the first 10K cycling event.

Thanks to the Northern Vance High School Viking Voices for singing the National Anthem and entertaining at Opening Ceremonies!



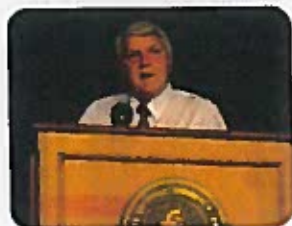
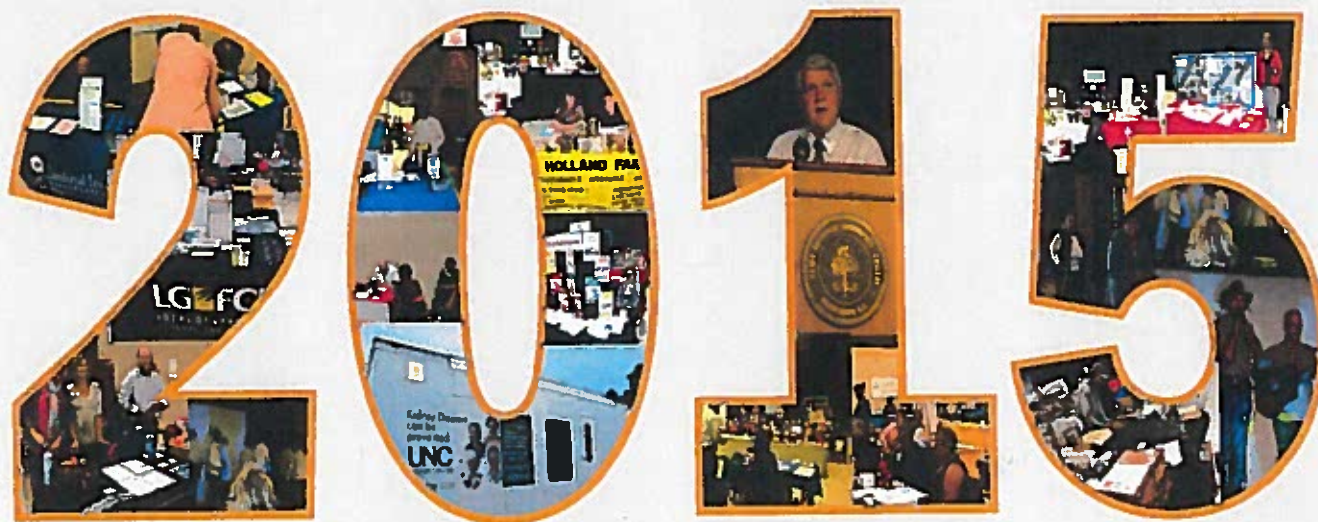


# AREA AGENCY ON AGING

## Surfing the Silver Tsunami: Boomer, Senior and Caregiver Expo

October 16, 2014

Surfing the Silver Tsunami : Boomer, Senior and Caregiver Expo was not only informational, but interactive for the over 300 older adults that attended the event. The purpose of the event was to share health information and services for seniors. Over 60 vendors including Walgreen's, Local Government Federal Credit Union and Cardinal Innovations participated. Individuals aged sixty and up showcased their handmade crafts, jewelry and edibles. Healthcare services included kidney and bone density screenings, glucose checks and flu shots . Admission to the event and lunch was provided at no cost to attendees.





# AREA AGENCY ON AGING

## Aging Legislative Breakfast

A legislative breakfast was held on January 6, 2015 at the Kerr Tar Regional Council of Governments office . The event hosted 42 individuals from the region including County Managers, DSS Directors, Adult Day Care Program Managers, Senior Center Directors, members of the Senior Tarheel Legislature and members of The Regional Aging Advisory Committee. We were honored to have local and state legislators, Senator Mike Woodard, Senator Floyd McKissick, Representative Nathan Baskerville and Representative Bobbie Richardson. The attendees were greeted with a warm welcome from Henderson Mayor Pete O'Geary. The breakfast focused on legislative priorities addressing aging issues and the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

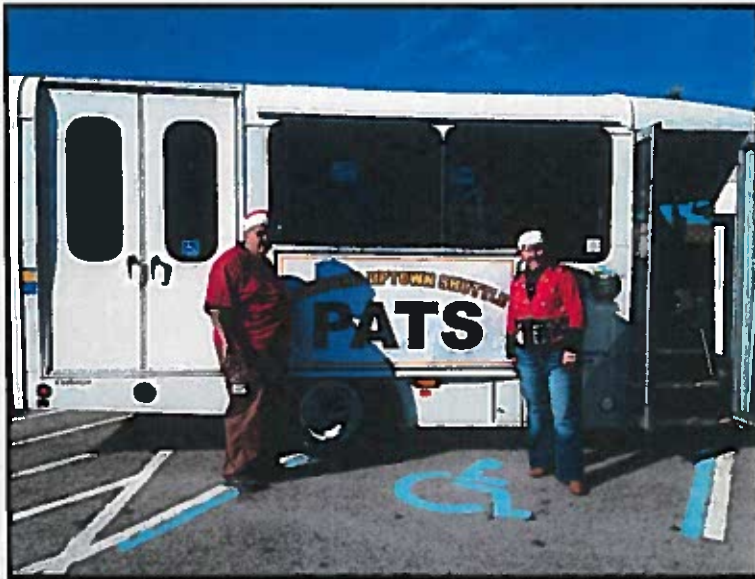




# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

## Vance County Farmers Market

Kerr-Tar Planning Department secured a NC Department of Commerce grant for \$50,000 to pave the Vance County Regional Farmers Market. The paving project will better support the facility as a year-round community gathering spot, contributing to the local food system, and supporting agricultural outreach events.

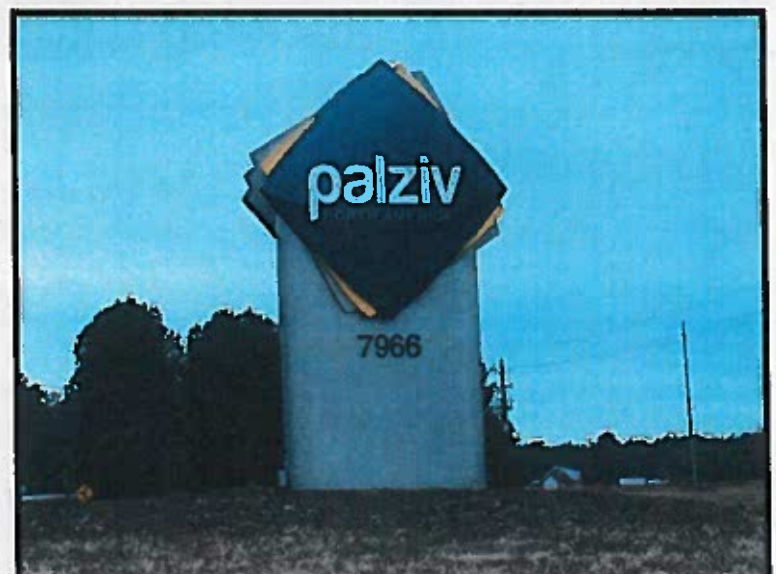


## Roxboro Around Town Shuttle

The Roxboro *Around Town Shuttle* transit planning project was completed. PATs went live with the service on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2014. Residents are able to reach shopping destinations, Uptown Roxboro, Roxboro medical office park, and Piedmont Community College. The transit plan was part of a technical assistance award from the Community Transportation Association of America.

## Building Reuse Grant

Kerr-Tar Planning Department wrote and managed a building reuse grant from the Department of Commerce Rural Division for a Franklin County manufacturer, Palziv North America. The grant award assisted with a 60,000 sq. ft. addition to their current facility and 18 month hiring goal of 50 new positions.





# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

## Economic Resilience

Considering hazard mitigation and economic development planning as interrelated processes is one way of building economic resilience. Released in January 2015, this report highlights approaches to aligning the **Hazard Mitigation Plans** and **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)** that can help to ensure that businesses can continue operating during and after severe weather events; promote the location of businesses in safe areas; diversify economies and reduce reliance on sectors that are particularly vulnerable to hazards and climate change; allow marketing to businesses seeking to locate in communities that are safe and well-prepared for disasters; and more. It features recommendations from a recent technical assistance project conducted by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation and the University of Louisville's Center for Hazards Research and Policy Development for the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments.

## BUILDING ECONOMIC RESILIENCE IN THE KERR-TAR REGION

*Recommendations for Linking Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies  
and Hazard Mitigation Plans*



Winter 2015

**Kerr-Tar**  
Regional Council  
Of Governments

**NADO**  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

**CENTER FOR HAZARDS RESEARCH  
AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT**



# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



Kerr-Tar COG Executive Director, Diane Cox, addressed attendees at the release event for the Equitable Growth Profile held on March 31, 2015 at the RTP Headquarters.



## Equitable Growth Profile

The Equitable Growth Profile of the Research Triangle Region examines demographic trends and indicators of equitable growth, highlighting strengths and areas of vulnerability in relation to the goal of building a strong, resilient economy. It was developed by PolicyLink and the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) to help the Triangle J and Kerr-Tar Councils of Governments, advocacy groups, local elected officials, planners, business leaders, funders, and others working to build a stronger region. This summary document simply highlights key findings from the profile along with policy and planning implications.

## Vance County Animal Shelter

Vance County established a local goal of constructing a new animal shelter by 2017. Kerr-Tar Planning Department assisted with securing a USDA loan agreement to finance and build a 7500 sq. ft. facility, enabling the Animal Control Department to more efficiently continue their public safety mission and increase animal adoption rates.





# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



## Economic Development Luncheon

About 65 Community Leaders from across the region met at the Henderson Country Club on April 8, 2015 for a presentation from Chris Chung, CEO of the Economic Development Partnership of NC (EDPNC). The EDPNC, a public-private partnership, oversees the State's efforts in business and job recruitment and retention, international trade, tourism, film and sports and business development. The EDPNC is a nonprofit organization that manages the sales and marketing functions that had previously been the responsibility of the NC Department of Commerce. It's under contract with and gets more than \$17 million a year from the state. The EDPNC also gets hundreds of thousands more from private investors.

Chung says a key to North Carolina recruiting jobs is not to get complacent. "We could have the best product in the world, but if we aren't investing anything and going out and telling it to our audience, we can't expect they're going to find us."



## Planning Board Workshop

Kerr-Tar Planning Department held a planning board workshop on June 18<sup>th</sup> at Oxford Thornton Library. With over 60 local planning board, board of adjustments, historic commission, and staff members in attendance, participants heard from local planning staff on best practices in board meetings and evaluating land-use decisions.





# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

## SET Project

Kerr-Tar Regional Economic Development team is one of two regions selected to participate from North Carolina and one of 24 nationally. The process will last eight to ten months, kicking off in early fall of 2015. The SET Program is a collaborative venture between USDA Rural Development and NC Cooperative Extension Service at NC State University.

The purpose of the SET program is to help rural regions develop a high quality regional economic development plan. The planning process involves coaching, data analysis, technical assistance, and access to peer region networking.

## Stronger Economies Together (SET)

*Strategies for Building New Economic Opportunities*



Stronger Economies Together

## Purpose of SET

Help rural communities/counties work together as a regional team in *developing and implementing*

A High Quality  
Regional Economic Development Plan

that builds on the  
current and emerging  
economic strengths  
of their region.



## Person – Roxboro Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Person – Roxboro Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted in April 2015 and is the first shared functional planning document completed in the Kerr-Tar Region. The planning process was overseen by the Person - Roxboro Hazard Mitigation Planning Team, consisting of representatives from interested City and County departments, representatives of other organizations within the city/county, and Kerr-Tar Planning. The plan is required by North Carolina Emergency Management to:

- Demonstrate local commitment to hazard mitigation planning principles
- Speed recovery and redevelopment following future natural hazard events
- Qualify for additional grant funding, in both pre-disaster and post-disaster situations.

2015

**Kerr-Tar**  
Regional Council  
Of Governments



## PERSON COUNTY-CITY OF ROXBORO HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE



# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

## Stem Pedestrian Plan



The Stem Pedestrian Plan was adopted by the Town of Stem and presented to Granville Greenways Technical Committee and Advisory Committee. The request is to add the Town's Pedestrian Plan to the Greenway Master Plan.

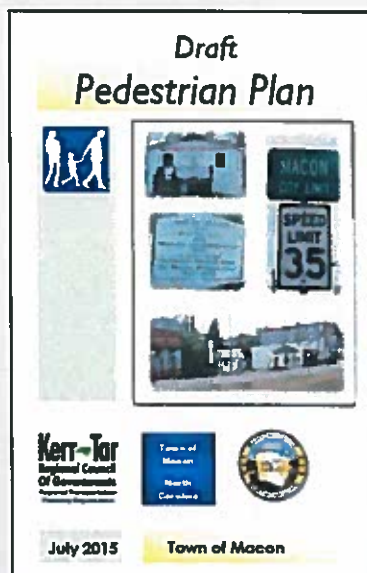
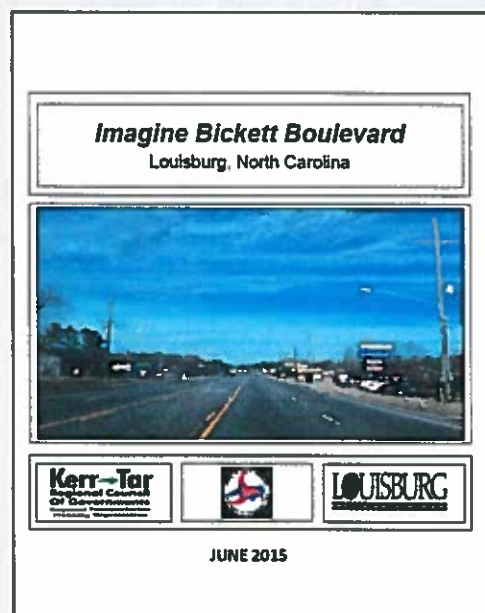
Recommendations include the creation of a gateway or entry point to Stem. Sidewalks to link destinations frequently used and incorporate crosswalks. A possible rail with a trail along or alongside of the Norfolk Southern Rail Line. In addition to a sidewalk link from Granville Central High School along Saunders Road joining the proposed Greenway trail. Possible closure of Church Street to expand off-road pedestrian links.

## Imagine Bickett Boulevard (Bickett Boulevard Visualization)

The project was a detailed examination of the 1.37 mile segment of Bickett Boulevard in Louisburg which extends from Burke Boulevard to NC 56 to East Nash Street.

Purpose of the study is to envision how redesigning Bickett Boulevard can prolong the life of the Boulevard, improve safety, increase capacity, help people get jobs, and serve as a more attractive gateway to the Town.

Alternatives were recommended for this segment of Bickett Boulevard and the Town of Louisburg adopted a Resolution in regards to this study.



## Macon Pedestrian Plan

A Draft Pedestrian Plan was completed for the Town of Macon. The Plan envisions safe pedestrian connections to town buildings, services, and neighborhoods by improving or creating pedestrian facilities along the existing roadways.

Recommendations include repairing existing sidewalks and crosswalks, creating a rail trail along the old CSX railway, creation of defined entry point to the Town of Macon with a Welcome sign and add some amenities to the existing park and encourage new development. Draft will be finalized in August and presented to the Macon Town Board in September.



# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

## LITTER ISN'T NATURAL!



### Help beautify your community

Volunteering locally to participate in the Governor proclaimed Litter Sweep to remove litter from North Carolina's roadways. Litter Sweep is a statewide roadside cleanup drive sponsored by NC DOT and administered by its Office of Beautification.

For 2015, the Litter Sweep dates are April 18 to May 2 and September 19 to October 3.

For more information, call the Litter Sweep Hotline  
1 (800) 331-5864



### Litter impact lasts

Once litter is in our environment, it can be there for a long time. A material's rate of biodegradation is the rate at which a material's chemical composition breaks down in a physiological environment. Cigarette butts, the most common litter, contain 4000 chemicals and takes up to 12 years to break down.

March 2015



### The negative impact litter has on you

The strongest ecological contributor to littering is the prevalence of existing litter. Litter attracts additional blight.

Litter is expensive and hits our pocketbooks. On average, NC DOT spends \$15 million removing roadside trash.

Almost half of North Carolina's roadside litter is "blown not thrown".

**Kerr-Tar**  
Regional Council  
Of Governments  
Land Planning Department

## Anti-Litter Campaign

Kerr-Tar RPO sponsored advertisements for the NC DOT spring anti-litter campaign. This semi-annual initiative highlights the negative impacts of litter on property values and community appearance.

Flyers were distributed to Kerr-Tar local governments for promoting the two week campaign.

## Walk to School Day

Regional Planner Brandie Crawford participated and helped make the 2015 National Walk To School Day (NWTSD) in Creedmoor a big success.





# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



NC Lakes District Regional Bike Plan- Outreach Event at the Mountains to Coast Cycle NC Ride Stop in Warrenton, NC on October 1, 2014.

## NC Lakes District Regional Bike Plan

Over the past year, planning staff have continued the development of a draft plan for the NCLD Regional Bike Plan. Staff have completed the draft plan including: route recommendations, design guidelines, mapping of individual routes for 25 individual route segments, regulatory and policy recommendations, an education plan, as well as an online GIS map of the routes. The draft plan is available at: [www.nclakesdistrict.com](http://www.nclakesdistrict.com) Comments on the draft are being collected and plan review meetings have been held by the NCLD Steering committee.

## Kerr-Tar Rural Planning Organization (KTRPO)

Staff attended meetings for regional initiatives involving KTRPO including: Strategic Transportation Corridors, Granville County Greenways and Comprehensive Plan Committees, NC-56 Corridor Study, Southeast High Speed Rail (SEHSR) Corridor, US-158, US-1 Council of Planning, and Warren County Roads.



RPO- Lyon Station Greenway Ribbon Cutting

## Other KTRPO projects include:

Staff worked with NCDOT and regional partners on air quality conformity and grants through **Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program**. Two applications were submitted for FFY 2016 for funding for greenways and sidewalk construction. Those applications were submitted for projects in the City of Oxford and Granville County.

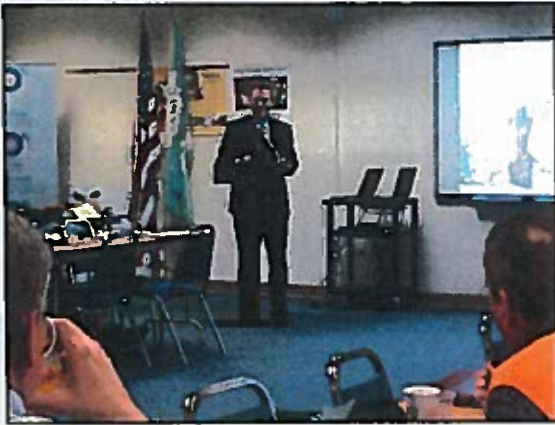


# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

## Clean Fuels Advance Technology Grant Events

Kerr-Tar has hosted several events in connection with our Clean Fuels Advanced Technology Grant (CFAT). This grant was awarded by the NC State Clean Energy Technology Center with funding from the NC DOT under prime agreement with the Federal highway Administration.

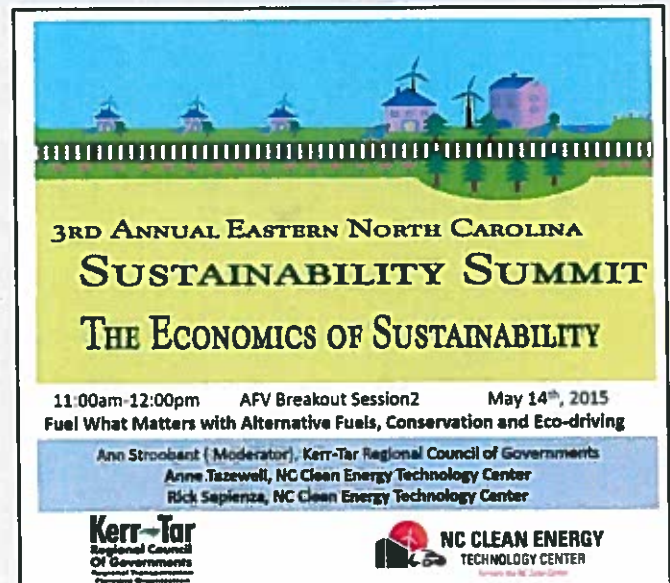
**Save Green by Driving Green** event was jointly hosted by Kerr-Tar COG, Upper Coastal Plain COG and the NC Clean Energy Technology Center on January 8, 2015 and held in Louisburg, NC. Attendees learned about the benefits of eco-driving and actually drove a five mile course before and after to check their fuel economy. In addition, attendees learned more about the history of biofuel production, use and new innovations from Adam Monroe, President of Novozymes, Americas.



Adam Monroe, President of Novozymes, Americas presents "The State of Biofuel Production and Use" as our featured luncheon speaker on January 18, 2015.

**The Eastern North Carolina Sustainability Summit** was jointly hosted by Kerr-Tar COG, Upper Coastal Plain COG, Edgecombe Community College, the League of Women Voters and the Sierra Club on May 15, 2015 and held in Tarboro, NC.

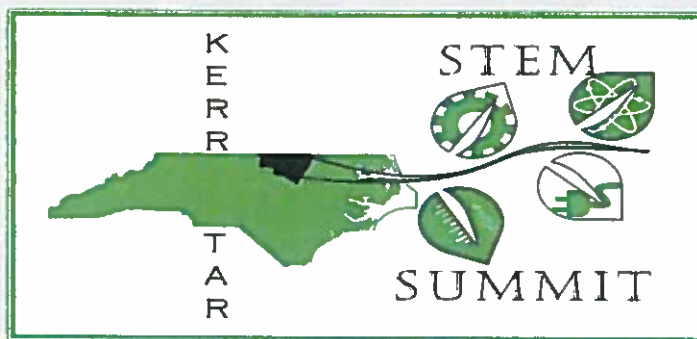
- Attendees could choose presenters according to their specific interest from three tracks:
  - Alternative Fuels and Vehicles
  - Waste Reduction and Recycling
  - Energy Efficiency
- Keynote speaker was Scott Mouw, State Recycling Program Director at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Kerr-Tar staff also participated in the Alternative Fuels and Vehicles section of the program with Anne Tazewell and Rick Sapienza of the NC Clean Energy Technology center. Ann Stroobant, Kerr-Tar Regional Planner, was a moderator for the session and spoke on promoting design choices to encourage our cities and towns to become more pedestrian and bicycle friendly.





# REGIONAL STEM EDUCATION SUMMIT

Community Leaders and Educators across the region came together for the Kerr-Tar Regional STEM Education Summit on April 21, 2015 at VGCC. Participants spent a full day together hearing from experts in the field of STEM education, hearing about different programs across the region and discussing ways in which we can improve education and career opportunities across our five counties.





# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

In 2014, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) provided funding to assist adult and youth customers in working toward meeting their educational and employment goals through the following services: intensive job seeking training, professional networking events, on-the-job training, classroom training, referrals to employers that are hiring, and follow-up services to customers who complete classroom training. Services were provided in two NC Works Career Centers by interagency, cross functional teams from Division of Workforce Solutions, Kerr-Tar COG, and General Management Solutions, Inc. The integrated services are provided in the Career Centers in addition to WIA include Wagner Peyser (Employment Service), Trade Adjustment Assistance, and self-service job search. From July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, **326** N.C. Career Center customers have entered employment.

**Talent engagement team members** welcome and do initial assessments and get new customers registered in the Center's management information system. **Talent development team members** work with job seekers who need some type of short-term skill development to enhance their employability. **Talent employment solutions team members** match job ready customers to businesses in the region.



Area Boot Camps and Professional Networking Time became popular events around the Kerr-Tar region in 2014. Offered in conjunction with GMSI and M3 & Company for new customers, the goals of the intense, one-week Boot Camp sessions are to teach people how to interview and network, market themselves to employers, perform a self-assessment of strengths, refine their job searching documents, and create a realistic job search.

## Work Experience

Work experience is a subsidized employment training activity provided by the NC Career Centers and WIA Youth providers. The goal of Work Experience is to give job seekers temporary job placement in order to develop new employment skills, or to supplement classroom training by getting practical experience. **6** local employers provided opportunities to **nine** Adult WIA jobseekers. Collectively, these job seekers received **\$23,186.50** in subsidized wages. The **9** obtained permanent employment after completing the work experience activity. About **79** youth received paid work experience opportunities, mostly through summer employment while attending school. These individuals received **\$136,714.42** worth of wages. On average, a WIA Youth participant who participated in Work Experience activities received **\$1,730.56** to subsidize their employment. Records show that **12** youth obtained unsubsidized employment as a result of WIA services.



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

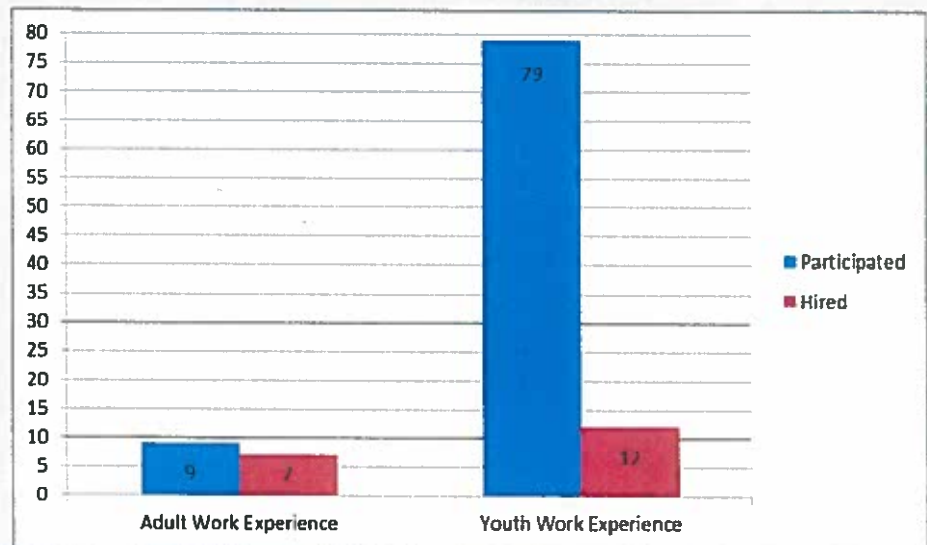
## On-The-Job Training (OJT)

The goal of the OJT Program is for customers to be retained in full-time employment. Businesses are reimbursed for the extra expense of training a new hire who eligible for WIA, during a pre-determined training period in a training plan developed by a Talent Employment Solutions Team member. **24** customers completed OJT in **5** businesses in the region between July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015. In 2014-2015 Kerr-Tar area employers were reimbursed **\$75,777.00** in wage reimbursements for training WIA new hires at their businesses.

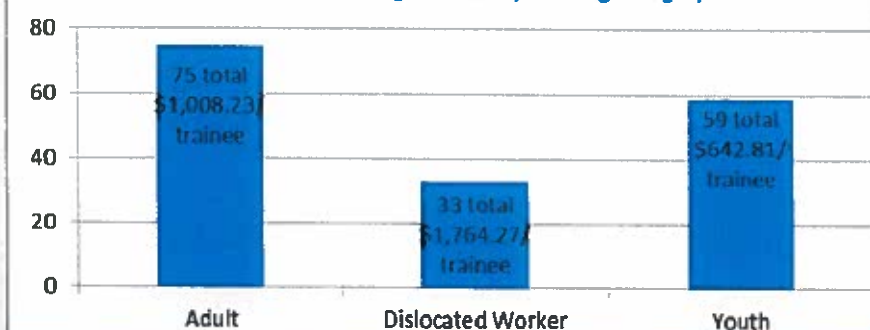
## Training Services

About **75** Adult WIA participants received short-term and curriculum training scholarships during the 2014-2015 Program Year. In addition **33** Dislocated Worker WIA received short-term and curriculum training scholarships during the 2014-2015 Program Year. And **59** Youth WIA participants received short-term and curriculum training scholarships during the 2014-2015 Program Year. **\$75,617.14** (average of \$1,008.23 per trainee) was expended on the Adult participants and **\$58,221.00** (average of \$1,764.27 per trainee) was expended on Dislocated Workers, and **\$37,925.98** was expended on Youth participants (average of \$642.81 per trainee). These amounts also reflect payments for books, supplies, testing, and transportation reimbursement if needed.

PY 2014-2015 Work Experience Statistics



PY 2014-2015 Training Services by Funding Category





# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



## North Carolina Youth Summit

The North Carolina Youth Summit (dubbed Young Adults, One Voice) held its 9<sup>th</sup> annual gathering in April at Greensboro's Embassy Suites. The Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board sponsored a group of young adults and service provider staff from Vance-Granville and Piedmont Community Colleges to attend the event in Greensboro. The Summit is designed to provide an opportunity for young adults who participate in the state's WIA-funded youth programs to come together to collaborate, learn from one another, exchange ideas, and act as "One Voice" in issues relating to workforce development in North Carolina.

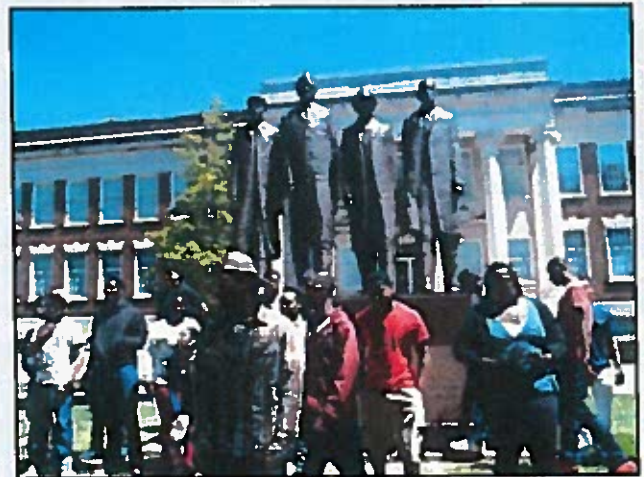
The theme for this year's event was "I'm on FLEEK." Four hundred thirty eight (438) individuals attended the event, including 308 young adults who focused on these topics:

FINANCE – Save and Invest Money  
LEADERSHIP – Know Your Strengths  
EMPLOYMENT – The Professional You  
ENAGAGEMENT – "Just Do It!" and  
KNOWLEDGE – Information is Power

When asked about her experience at the NC Youth Summit, Seniqua Turner raved about the interaction with new people, Friday night's party, and the opportunity to stay at a different place in a hotel. She said of the conference workshops, "It was an enjoyable experience. I learned how to dress to impress on an interview and on the job."



NC A&T State University Step Team performs for the NC Youth Summit participants who attend the College Tour.

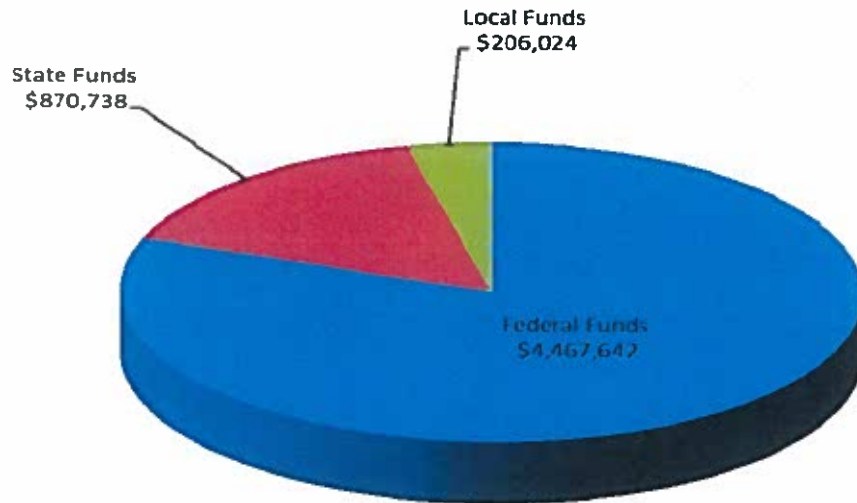


NC Youth Summit participants re-live local history during their College Tour at NC A&T State University. This statue, titled *February One*, honors the four A&T freshmen (*Greensboro Four*) who participated in the nonviolent sit-in at Woolworth's store on February 1, 1960.

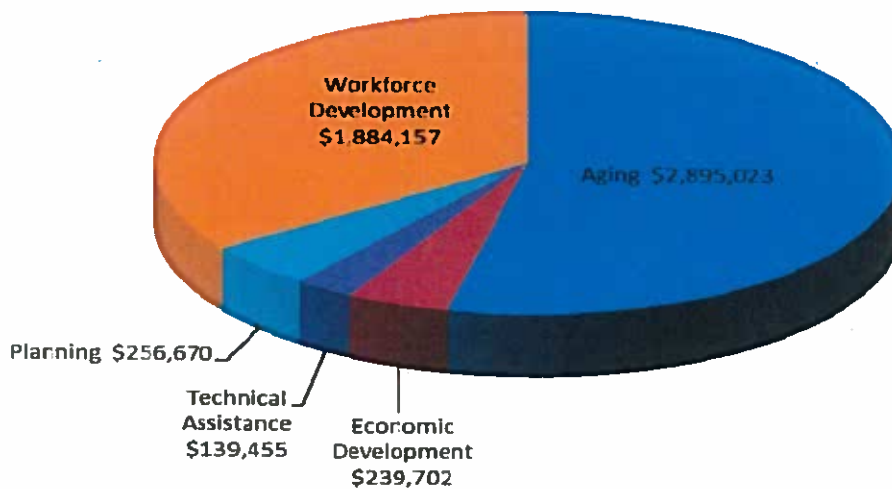


# FINANCE

## KTCOG Revenues - \$5,544,404



## KTCOG Expenditures - \$5,415,007



Total Federal &  
State Funds  
Leveraged:  
\$5,338,380



Total Dues:  
\$127,025

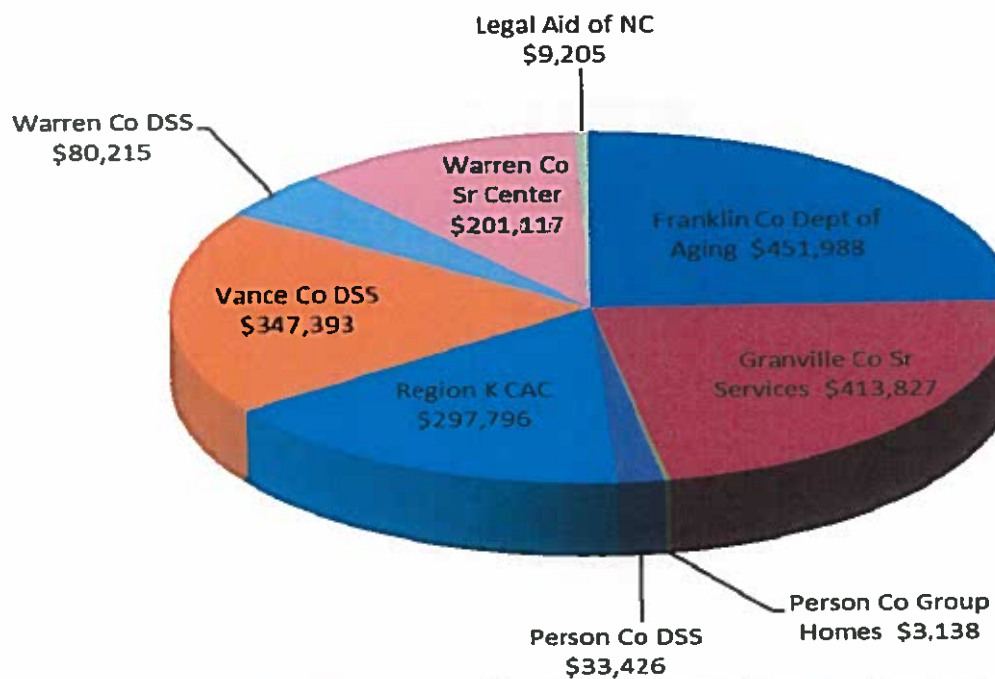


\$42 ROI  
(Return for  
every \$1 in  
Dues)

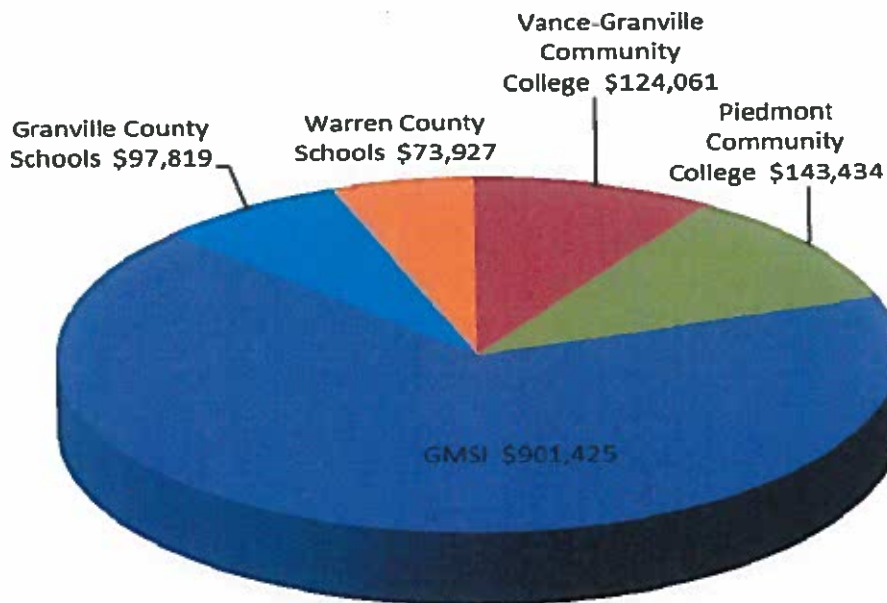


# FINANCE

## Area Agency on Agency Funds



## Workforce Development Funds





# ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

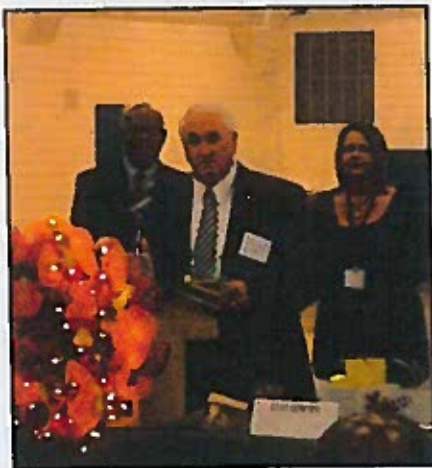


Vance County Manager, Jerry Ayscue was the recipient of the Regional Star Award for his years of service and support of Vance County and the Kerr-Tar Region.

This award is presented to someone that goes beyond normal limits to promote regionalism that provides opportunities for local governments to enhance and improve the quality of life of its citizens.



Vance County Commissioner, Terry Garrison made the announcement and presented the Regional Star Award to Jerry Ayscue. His wife Carolyn was by his side.



Jerry Ayscue accepting award and addressing attendees.

Vance County Award Recipients Kelly Grissom and Jerry Ayscue





# KERR-TAR COG STAFF

## **Administrative & Finance:**

Diane Cox, Executive Director  
Gina Parham, Sr. Admin/Office Manager  
Rob TeCarr, Finance Director  
Donna Lee, Finance and Data Base Specialist

## **Area Agency on Aging:**

Rhonda Smith, Area Agency on Aging Director  
Sheila Brown, Aging Projects Coordinator  
Melissa Catlett, Family Caregiver Specialist  
Kim Hawkins, Long Term Care Ombudsman

## **Planning and Development:**

Will Brooks, Regional Planning Director  
Brandie Crawford, Regional Planner & RPO Coordinator  
Alfred Cassidy, Mobility Planner  
Ann Stroobant, Regional Planner  
Mike Inscoe, Rehab Specialist Consultant

## **Workforce Development:**

Vincent Gilreath, Workforce Development Director  
Deborah Cozart, Performance & Accountability Coordinator  
Ben Foti, Youth Program Coordinator  
Luis Grillo, Business Service Representative and Loan Officer  
Kelly Hundley, Workforce Development Program Specialist

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments  
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[info@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:info@kerrtarcog.org)



Left: Scenic Mayo Lake in Person County.  
(Photo by: Brandie Crawford)



Above: Evening cruise on Kerr Lake.



Left: Aerial photo of Steele Creek  
Marina at Kerr Lake, Vance County.

(Photos by Ron Parham 2015)



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