

April Wood Graduates from TPM Academy® of North Carolina to Close the Skills Gap

19 participants from North Carolina now join an elite network of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's TPM Academy graduates

Raleigh, NC – The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation in partnership with the North Carolina Chamber Foundation announced April Wood, Vice-President of the Garner Chamber of Commerce, graduated from Cohort X of its premier workforce development program, the TPM Academy®. This program is facilitated by the U.S. Chamber Foundation based on their Talent Pipeline Management® (TPM) framework. The Academy uses TPM's approach to train workforce leaders from across the country to drive partnerships with education and training providers based on industry need and build scalable, sustainable talent pipelines that support the students, workers, and businesses in their community.

“The TPM Academy of North Carolina graduates are established leaders in their communities dedicated to advancing the growth of their local economy,” says Cheryl Oldham, senior vice president of the U.S. Chamber Foundation. “We look forward to continuing our partnership with them as they demonstrate their leadership in this rapidly changing economy and develop effective talent pipelines aligned to industry demand.”

Wood was selected to participate in this cohort along with 19 other North Carolina state and local leaders from the business community representing chambers of commerce, business associations, economic development agencies, small to large companies, as well as key education partners. Individuals were selected by a panel of their peers based on their understanding of the skills gap challenges in the community they serve, a demonstrated understanding of the TPM approach, a track record of putting plans into action, and an established strong network of partners to rely on for a successful implementation.

“North Carolina is at a critical juncture, and talent will continue to be a primary concern for us all. Through her participation in the TPM Academy of North Carolina, April Wood has proven that she is a pace setter on this issue, ready to lead on the solutions North Carolina needs,” said Kelly Fuller, president of the NC Chamber Foundation. “Real work and transformation are accomplished one community at a time by individuals like Wood who are willing to step up and lead the way. The NC Chamber Foundation looks forward to continuing our work with these TPM Academy graduates to strengthen North Carolina's talent pipeline and prepare our state for the workforce needs of the future.”

Upon completion of the trainings, TPM Academy graduates join the U.S. Chamber Foundation's dedicated network of more than 275 workforce and economic development professionals from 33 U.S. states and Canada to build dynamic, sustainable talent pipelines and close the skills gap for their industry.

To learn more about Talent Pipeline Management and the TPM Academy, visit the U.S. Chamber Foundation [website](#).