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### Press Release

#### *Triangle East Chamber Welcomes Nneka Thompson as JOCO WORKS Project Manager*

Smithfield, NC – The Triangle East Chamber of Commerce has hired Nneka Thompson as the JOCO WORKS Project Manager. Nneka brings over 20 years of workforce development experience, having led initiatives at national think tanks, non-profits, government entities, and Fortune 500 companies.

Nneka's background includes promoting apprenticeship programs at the Aspen Institute and overseeing youth apprenticeship research at New America. As Principal of Mariama Consulting, LLC, she advised employers on career readiness strategies and enhanced job placement outcomes. Her work has been featured on Forbes.com, and she has spoken at national events.

Nneka holds an MPA from Harvard Kennedy School and a B.S. in Marketing from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. She was recognized in 2019 by the Diversity Roundtable of Central Indiana for her dedication to workforce development.

JOCO WORKS is an industry-led collaborative supported by education, business, civic, and government partners created to meet the workforce needs of Johnston County. The project manager position is funded by a state grant.

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