



CENTRALINA
Workforce Development
Board

Centralina WDB Establishes Mary Walls Community Impact Award

**Longtime Board Member Presented Award at the May 14, 2024
Centralina WDB Meeting**

The Centralina Workforce Development Board (WDB) – Mary Walls Community Impact Award honors individuals and organizations who are making significant contributions to their community through time, actions, talents, dedication, and resources. These individuals and organizations serve as role models for compassion and service and strive to make their communities better places to live and work. The Centralina WDB members have a passion for helping others—and we want to honor individuals and organizations who make a difference through this award, named for long-time Centralina WDB member Mary Walls.

Whether through professional or volunteer service, individuals or organizations that make a significant and positive impact on the lives of others and embody the values represented in the Centralina WDB's vision and mission would meet the criteria for the award.

Successful candidates for this award may be one or more of the following:

- Advocating for and effecting change within a specific community or region
- Addressing critical economic, workforce, health, social, or environmental needs throughout our society
- Pursuing passion projects that benefit the greater good
- Driving change through action

Mary Walls served on the Centralina WDB from November 1994 to June 2024. Mary was the Unit Manager for the NC Department of Health and Human Services – Vocational Rehabilitation Services for Union and Stanly counties. Mary has been a tireless giver of her time and talent to the Centralina WDB through work on strategic planning, the Board leadership nomination committee, and local hiring events. Additionally, she has had a passion for service to those with disabilities, seeing the true abilities of each customer and finding the right match with employers in our communities. Mary embodies all aspects of the Centralina WDB Mary Walls Community Impact Award and has set the benchmark for future recipients of this award.

The award was presented to Mary Walls at the May 14, 2024 meeting of the Centralina WDB held at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College NC Research Campus in Kannapolis. Mary was pleasantly surprised by the award and stated that it was a privilege and honor to serve on the Centralina WDB. She thanked current and former Board members and Centralina WDB staff. Mary noted that she would miss everyone.

Mary Walls set the standard for a public sector member of the Board and a true leader for workforce development. We will also miss Mary and wish her the best in her retirement. Through the Centralina WDB Mary Walls Community Impact Award, her legacy will live on.

For more information on the Centralina WDB, visit <https://centralinaworkforce.com/>. And be sure to download the **FREE Centralina WDB Mobile App** – available on at the Google Play Store and the App Store for iPhone to keep up with all the local workforce services and events happening around the region.