

BLADEN COUNTY AWARD WINNERS



Arkeivia Pone aspired to have a career in the nursing field. Although, Arkeivia faced a number of challenges as a single mother, she worked endlessly to achieve her goals. In January 2018, Arkeivia received training assistance through the NCWorks Career Center-Bladen County. On July 26, 2018, she received her Practical Nursing Degree and then passed the NCLEX-PN test to become licensed with the North Carolina Board of Nursing. Arkeivia is currently employed with Southeastern Regional Medical Center as a Licensed Practical Nurse in the Pulmonary Clinic.



Kimberlee Sessions has faced a number of life challenges. With the desire to excel in life, Kimberlee enrolled in Bladen Community College's College Readiness Program. With high reading and mathematics scores, Kimberlee enrolled into the Basic Skills Plus program which served as a catalyst for concurrent enrollment in the High School Equivalency Program and Nurse Aide I Program. Kimberlee earned her High School Equivalency Diploma and Nursing Assistant I certification and is now employed with Bladen East Assisted Living.



Mariah Smith-Cottingham was a member of the College Ambassadors and National Technical Honors Society. Mariah has also been actively involved with the Youth Ambassadors for a Better Community through Men and Women United for Youth and Families. Mariah has successfully completed high school obtaining her high school diploma. Mariah is currently enrolled in post secondary education at UNC-Wilmington, double majoring in Business Entrepreneurship and English.



Smithfield *Good food. Responsibly.* Food Tar Heel Division has proven to be a valued asset to the local economy in Bladen County. They have partnered with the local NCWorks Career Center to provide job fair opportunities to assist jobseekers with employment. Smithfield has also demonstrated a genuine commitment to providing employment and training opportunities for individuals through On-the-Job Training opportunities.

HOKE COUNTY AWARD WINNERS



Maryanette Ortiz Martinez faced the significant challenge of relocating to the area and with obtaining employment. With assistance from the NCWorks Career Center- Hoke County, Maryanette completed a work experience with South Central Community Healthcare. After completing the work experience Maryanette was hired as a permanent employee. Her supervisor stated "Maryanette is quiet, but is very strong minded, hardworking, and has excellent customer service skills. She brings joy into the office and her bi-lingual skills are an added plus." Since beginning her employment, she has enrolled at Fayetteville Technical Community College in the Healthcare Management program to continue training.



Julisa Munoz-Ramirez faced the significant challenge of having limited English proficiency, but was determined to succeed. Julisa's ultimate career goal is to work in the medical field as a registered nurse. During her time in the WIOA program, Julisa obtained her credentials in Medical Administration, EKG, and X-Ray Tech. In June 2019, Julisa also completed the National Nurse Aide I program to become a Certified Nursing Assistant and graduated from Hoke County High School.



Hoke County Department of Social Services has established a strong partnership with the NCWorks Career Center—Hoke County and has been instrumental in providing employment opportunities and training for individuals in Hoke County. The agency also made an impact assisting with National Dislocated Worker Employment Program by providing employment opportunities towards disaster relief efforts in Hoke County.

SCOTLAND COUNTY AWARD WINNERS



Lisa Cummins encountered a number of unforeseen situations that contributed to continued problems securing employment. She was able to connect with staff at the NCWorks Career Center—Scotland County. With their assistance Lisa enrolled in and completed the Roadmaster Truck Driving School. Upon completion Lisa was offered and secured a job with Werner Transportation.



Willnesha Manning was seeking employment and looking to provide a sustainable income for her family. She was able to connect with the WIOA Youth Program and complete an internship with Sandhill's Behavioral Center as an office manager gaining invaluable work experience. After completion Willnesha became interested in pursuing a career in education. She completed the Effective Teacher Training program at Richmond Community College. Currently, Willnesha is employed by the Scotland County School system as a substitute teacher.



Kaleb Morris was a high school student facing numerous personal challenges. Through the WIOA program, Kaleb participated in work related activities including summer employment, a work experience, and a variety of workshops to enhance his employability skills. Kaleb worked diligently to improve his basic skills and interpersonal skills by obtaining the Conover Workplace Readiness Credential. Kaleb obtained his high school diploma and is currently exploring career interests.



Pilkington has demonstrated a continued commitment to workforce development and provides a variety of job training and employment opportunities to their community. Pilkington hires employees from various populations that include veterans, older workers, former offenders, and those that are economically disadvantaged. Pilkington has worked with the NCWorks Career Center—Scotland County to offer On—the—Job Training opportunities to individuals in the Lumber River local area.



Nichols Dockery has had aspirations of becoming a truck driver since the age of 16. Nichols wanted to find sustainable employment and income for his family, but previously struggled to complete training. On December 17 2018, he enrolled in training with Future Truckers of America. Although he faced certain obstacles during his training, on January 28, 2019, he completed the CDL Truck Driving program. Nichols secured full time employment with US Xpress Trucking on January 29, 2019.



Aaliyah Burch strived to find a career that would provide a sustainable income for her family. Interested in a career in the medical field as a Pharmacy Technician, Aaliyah enrolled and completed the Pharmacy Technician Certification class at Richmond Community College. Aaliyah is currently completing an internship with Medical Center Pharmacy as she prepares to take the Pharmacy Technician State Board Exam. Aaliyah plans to continue her education and obtain a degree in Pharmaceutical Science through Wingate University.



Town of Dobbin Heights has shown a continued collaboration with NCWorks Career Center – Richmond County. The town has provided employment opportunities for individuals affected by Hurricane Florence through the National Dislocated Worker Employment Program. The Town of Dobbin Heights has a strong relationship with the community, offering the community access to the computer lab to assist with job searchers and job applications. The Town of Dobbin Heights has also worked to strongly promote services available for local veterans such as hosting the Veteran Stand Down events.

ROBESON COUNTY AWARD WINNERS



Jeremy Milligan was interested in opportunity and advancement in a new career after becoming unemployed following a sudden layoff. Through the NCWorks Career Center-Robeson County, Jeremy was able to complete the CDL training program at Richmond Community College. Jeremy excelled and received certifications in the area of Tractor-Trailer Operations, Safety Driver Responsibility, and the entry level Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations program. Jeremy is now employed with Western Express Trucking Services and excited about his new employment opportunity.



Shu'Kuri Campbell has shown perseverance in the face of personal struggles and obstacles. Utilizing his musical inspirations, Shu'Kuri has worked hard to achieve his goals of personal growth, educational growth, and securing gainful employment. Shu'Kuri has participated in workshops that have assisted him in obtaining the employability skills necessary to find and sustain employment. Shu'Kuri was able to complete multiple employment opportunities at local car dealerships to gain experience in a field he is very passionate about. Shu'Kuri is currently employed in the Reconditioning Department at the Reed-Lallier Chevrolet in Fayetteville, NC.



M-W Electric, Inc. is a locally owned company in Robeson County that has been providing electrical contracting services to the community since 1997. M-W Electric, Inc., continues to maintain a strong partnership with the NCWorks Career Center – Robeson County. They are a second chance employer, utilizing the On-the-Job Training program to offer employment and training opportunities to individuals. M-W Electric supports opportunities to enhance the lives of individuals throughout the communities in Robeson County.

NATIONAL DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM



Veronica McCloud was affected by the recent hurricanes with her home receiving severe water damage and requiring warranted repairs. Veronica applied for the National Dislocated Worker Employment Program and was placed in a temporary position with the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church (NCCUMC) Disaster Response as a Case Manager. In collaboration with the City of Lumberton and Robeson County Government Veronica coordinated relief and distribution sites at both Sandy Grove Baptist Church and Lumberton Junior High School. Veronica's hard work, dedication, and passion to assist others in need earned her full-time permanent employment with NCCUMC.



Town of Red Springs has had to overcome tremendous damage as a result of two devastating hurricanes. The Town of Red Springs has worked in partnership with the Lumber River Council of Governments and been an active worksite of the National Dislocated Worker Employment Program since October 2016. They have worked tirelessly to ensure that the damaged areas of the town received the required maintenance and that individuals seeking employment received an opportunity to go to work and support their families. To date, a total of 52 temporary workers have been placed in various positions to assist with debris cleanup, grounds keeping, and building maintenance duties. Out of those 52 workers, 5 have been hired as permanent employees of the Town of Red Springs.