



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –  
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## Deputy County Manager Pilgrim to Retire

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Deputy Cumberland County Manager Juanita Pilgrim will retire Jan. 31. Pilgrim joined Cumberland County government in 1987 as the county's first budget director. She became the assistant county manager in 1990 and in 2000 was named the deputy county manager with responsibility for 14 human services departments and special projects.

Pilgrim will continue to assist the county on a limited part-time basis through June 2011 with special projects, including strategic planning and the Golden Leaf Foundation Community Assistance Initiative. She has served on various community and state boards and in 2009 was appointed by Gov. Bev Perdue to the N.C. Employment Security Commission for a four-year term. Pilgrim now serves on the Board of Trustees for Fayetteville State University, the Board of Directors for the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, the Southeastern Economic Development Commission and the Cumberland County Workforce Development Board.

“Juanita has done a great job here and we wish her the best as she begins her transition into retirement,” said County Manager James Martin. “We are also grateful that she is willing to assist us on special projects where her expertise will enhance our performance.”

Pilgrim earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in business from North Carolina Central University. Her 47-year career includes jobs in human services, education, health care, business and local government. She was an accountant with the North Carolina Fund, Inc. which initiated the first 11 Community Action Programs for the state and the chief accountant for the North Carolina Manpower Development Corporation in Chapel Hill, which provided administrative and technical support to those CAPs. She has taught classes at N.C. Central and Fayetteville State University, and

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was the director of finance and administration at the Lincoln Community Health Center in Durham and the business manager of the San Antonio Children's Center in Texas.

Throughout her life, Pilgrim said she has tried to live by the Golden Rule and treat others the way she would want to be treated.

"I truly enjoy working with the citizens of Cumberland County and with so many dedicated and hard working public servants," Pilgrim said. She has worked on numerous programs throughout the years, including Communicare, which deals with at-risk families and youth; the Medication Access Program; the Partnership for Children; the Day Reporting Center; economic and workforce development; Safe Water Task Force; and other human services related programs.

Pilgrim is looking forward to spending more time with her family, especially her husband of 45 years, Dr. James Pilgrim Jr., her children, grandchildren and 97-year-old mother.

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2