



## News Release



### For Immediate Release

Cumberland County Workforce Development

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## Energy Management Training Targets Veterans Media Event on Dec. 8 Spotlights Program

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – A training program developed by Mears Construction, in conjunction with Fayetteville Technical Community College and the Cumberland County N.C. Works Career Center, is putting military veterans on the fast track to management careers in the gas distribution industry.

Media are invited to meet the students and instructors in the pipeline installation foreman training program during a heavy-equipment rodeo event at 9 a.m. Dec. 8 at James River Equipment, 5039 U.S.-301 in Hope Mills.

Mears Construction, based in Kansas City, Mo., brought industry professionals from around the country and within the state of North Carolina to train the veterans on the skill sets needed to be successful in the pipeline industry. The first class started in October and will graduate in December before transitioning to on-the-job training in January.

FTCC is hosting the program on campus, and the Cumberland County N.C. Works Career Center is providing steel-toe boots and other supplies and working with Veterans Affairs to ensure the participants have the resources and support available during their transition from military life into a civilian career.

“The program is helping put local veterans from Fort Bragg and the North Carolina National Guard into jobs in the state of North Carolina, working on projects with Piedmont Natural Gas,” said Josh Bieler, a director at Mears Construction and an Air Force reservist. Bieler recognized the common skill sets between what veterans learn in the military and what is required of successful gas distribution managers and put the training program together to help transitioning military members move into energy industry careers.

Companies like McElroy Fusion, Consolidated Pipe and Supply Company, James River Equipment, Hertz, Carolina Trucking Academy and John Deere have provided instruction and supplies to ensure the students receive the training experience necessary to ensure success in the field.

For more information on opportunities for veterans seeking employment, contact the N.C. Works Career Center of Cumberland County at 910-323-3421.

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