



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

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Workforce Development

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Workforce Development Honors Clients, Partners

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County Workforce Development presented awards to program participants and partners during its Second Annual Recognition Luncheon held Wednesday, June 8, at the Holiday Inn on Cedar Creek Road.

Workforce Development offers programs for youth, adults and dislocated workers with the goal of increasing employment and training opportunities for the County's citizens, as well as enhancing their productivity and competitiveness in the workplace.

Award categories and recipients are:

Outstanding Younger Youth – Jonica Banks

Outstanding Young Adult – Tyesha Hickmon, Tiffany Murphy and Calvin Womack

Outstanding Dislocated Worker – Christopher Smith

Outstanding Adult – Eunice Franklin, Patrick Smith and Michael Weatherly

Outstanding Employer – Veterans Flooring Group Inc.

Outstanding Partnership – Transition Tech Program (Fayetteville Technical Community College, Fort Bragg Training and Education Center and Cumberland County NCWorks Career Center)

Jonica Banks graduated from Westover High School and will attend Fayetteville State University in the fall. She is continuing her education despite physical limitations. Her employment experience includes the Cape Fear Botanical Garden and Cumberland County Schools' Human Resources department.

Tyesha Hickmon worked with her Workforce Development case manager to find a job after graduating high school. Hickmon completed an internship at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, which led to full-time employment as a Food and Nutrition Assistant at Cape Fear Valley.

Tiffany Murphy overcame personal challenges and joined the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act program to pursue a path in medical administration and human resources. Murphy is currently employed at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center.

Calvin Womack graduated from high school and took the initiative to join the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act program. He overcame transportation and income challenges to find work and is now employed by Cape Fear Barbecue.

Christopher Smith, who was faced with providing for his family while being unemployed, set a goal of finding income to support himself and his family within 60 days. Smith attended the Commercial Driver's License Class A Tractor Trailer program at Miller-Motte College and graduated at the top of his class.

Eunice Franklin spent seven years caring for her ailing mother and faced the challenge of finding a job without work experience. Through Workforce Development, Franklin was able to identify healthcare skills learned through caring for her mother to get a job as a personal care aid with Senior Care Services of Dunn.

Patrick Smith was homeless and recovering from a near-fatal motorcycle accident when he completed truck driver training with the help of Workforce Development. Less than two weeks after completing training, Smith found a job with Paschal Trucking.

Michael Weatherly, a veteran who lost his lower left leg in a motorcycle accident, overcame his injury to complete truck driver training. He was the first amputee to complete the program without modification and is now employed with Oak Island Transport.

Veterans Flooring Group Inc. (VFG) partnered with Fayetteville Technical Community College and Workforce Development to develop a customized classroom training program, followed by hands-on training. Located in a Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Zone in Fayetteville, VFG gives priority hiring to veterans, unemployed individuals and young people seeking to learn a construction trade.

The **Transition Tech Program** is a partnership between Workforce Development, Fayetteville Technical Community College and the Fort Bragg Training and Education Center. The program helps veterans and transitioning service members, who experience a higher unemployment rate than the general public, obtain the skills and training to match employer demands and find work.

Workforce Development is a department of Cumberland County Government. It provides an integrated system of training, retraining and employment for job seekers and employers of Cumberland County to build a globally competitive workforce, and positively influence the economic development of the service region.

The Workforce Development office is located at 414 Ray Avenue. For more information, visit co.cumberland.nc.us/workforce or call 910-323-3421.