

NCWORKS CERTIFIED CAREER PATHWAYS

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NCWorks Certified Career Pathways are a key strategy to support the state's goal of having 67% of working-aged North Carolinians with education and training beyond high school by 2025.

Certified Career Pathways are integrated, seamless systems of education and workforce development programs developed by engaged employers, workforce development boards, high schools and colleges. They are designed to match worker preparation to employer need.

Five regional teams around the state applied to the NCWorks Commission and are being recommended for certification today:

1. **SOUTHWEST COLLABORATIVE (CHARLOTTEWORKS, GASTONWORKS, CENTRALINA) – ADVANCED MANUFACTURING/MECHATRONICS**

Counties: Mecklenburg, Gaston, Anson, Cabarrus, Iredell, Lincoln, Rowan, Stanly, Union.

Key Elements:

1. Provides comprehensive training in the Advanced Manufacturing industry sector.
2. Combines urban and rural partners to expand options for workers and employers alike.

This pathway combines the largest city in the state with numerous smaller partners to create a truly regional partnership. This team brought each of its education partners together to reduce duplication and expand options for all pathway enrollees and employer partners.

2. **EASTERN CAROLINA – HEALTH SCIENCES**

Counties: Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, Wayne.

Key Elements:

1. Provides comprehensive training in the Healthcare sector.
2. Focuses on the most in-demand careers within the industry sector to develop a strong, streamlined pathway.

Eastern Carolina has worked more than a year to develop this pathway to meet the needs of eastern North Carolina within the Health Sciences Industry Sector. It focuses heavily on the training and career awareness of pathway enrollees to ensure employer need is met.

3. SOUTHWESTERN – ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Counties: Haywood, Jackson, Swain, Macon, Graham, Clay, Cherokee.

Key Elements:

1. Provides comprehensive training in the Advanced Manufacturing sector.
2. Revitalizes a vulnerable industry in the most western part of the State.

The Advanced Manufacturing Pathway in the Southwestern Region is a key component of the local team's commitment to revitalize business and industry in a region of North Carolina that struggles to recruit new and expanding businesses. This pathway is the result of years of work to engage businesses, education partners and local leaders for the benefit of the local and regional workforce.

4. MOUNTAIN AREA – HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

Counties: Madison, Buncombe, Henderson, Transylvania.

Key Elements:

1. Provides comprehensive training in the Hospitality industry sector.
2. Meets the growing need for skilled workers to perform all jobs within the occupation.

The Mountain Area region of North Carolina is a natural fit for the state's first certified pathway in Hospitality and Tourism. This pathway is unique in that it articulates and formalizes careers along a trajectory not always thought to be high-demand or high-wage. Individuals can make a great career in the H&T industry and this career pathway well demonstrates that.

5. CUMBERLAND, LUMBER RIVER AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP – NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH

Counties: Cumberland, Hoke, Moore, Bladen, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland, Alamance, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Randolph.

Key Elements:

1. Provides comprehensive training in the Healthcare industry sector.
2. Reduces duplication of education and training along the nursing curriculum.

This pathway pulls all or parts of three workforce boards together to create a truly regional partnership that is nimble and responsive to employer needs. The local partners considered the needs of their workforce and employers above invisible county boundaries and service delivery areas to develop a strong and effective partnership.