

NCWorks Commission Team

Executive Director



Dr. Annie Izod serves as the Executive Director of the NCWorks Commission. She has been with the commission since December 2016, where she began as commission staff. In her role as Executive Director, Annie provides strategic leadership on complex workforce development issues, and leads the research efforts, program evaluations, and strategic and policy analyses related to workforce and economic development in North Carolina.

Annie brings over 15 years of experience in public policy analysis, program evaluation, and qualitative and quantitative research through her previous employment at the US Government Accountability Office, Duke University and NC State University. She earned a PhD in Public Administration at NC State University where her research focus was on measuring the performance of networked organizations and the qualities that lead to the success of North Carolina's workforce development boards. Annie holds dual Bachelor's degrees in English and Political Science and a Master of Public Administration degree from Virginia Tech.

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Deputy Director



James Bain serves as the Deputy Director of the NCWorks Commission. A native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, James has worked in the field of workforce development for over 10 years in Central North Carolina, in a variety of roles including; Job Developer, WIA/WIOA Case Manager, Employment & Training Director, and Director of Regional Partnership Workforce Development Board.

James is committed to building regional relationships with our workforce, education and community partners. Additionally, he believes local industry drives the workforce and he is committed to responding their needs to develop a critical talent pipeline. James recently stated, "As one generation of our workforce transitions into retirement, we must have a viable supply of talent to fill these vacancies".

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The following **key liaisons are** charged with providing strategic planning, research, subject matter expertise, and staff support to the NCWorks Commission and its committees.

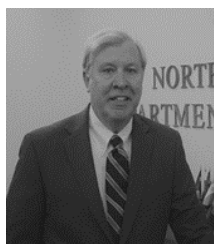


Wendy Johnson joined the NCWorks Commission Staff in May 2022. She serves as Senior Workforce Development Analyst of the commission, with a focus on NCWorks Career Centers certification process, and annual program reviews. A native of Lincolnton, North Carolina, Wendy has worked in the field of workforce development for over 12 years in Western North Carolina, in a variety of roles including Business Services Consultant, and Director of the Western Piedmont Workforce Development Board. Prior to entering the field of workforce development Wendy worked in Training and Development for a variety of industries, such as Fiber Optics, Pharmaceuticals, and Semiconductors. Wendy holds an Associate's Degree from Catawba Valley Community College, a Bachelor's Degree from Gardner-Webb University, and a Master's Degree from Clemson University.

Commission Staff

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Ken Allen, Director of Business Engagement, joined the NCWorks Commission Staff in May 2019. He brings more than 20 years of Economic Development expertise from roles at the state and local levels. Over the course of his career, Allen has recruited more than 3,300 new jobs and over \$2 billion in new investments in North Carolina. He received his B.S. in Business Administration/Marketing from the University of South Carolina and studied Urban Planning at the University of Virginia. Allen is also a graduate of the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute. His professional associations include the North Carolina Economic Developers Association (NCEDA) and the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC), on which he serves as Regional Director and Executive committee state director on the Board of Directors.

Commission Staff

Allen previously served as Assistant Director/Economic Developer with the Rockingham County Center for Economic Development, Small Business and Tourism. He was responsible for product development, recruitment, existing industry and workforce development. He led the county-wide initiative to certify Rockingham County as an ACT Work Ready Community.

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Tracie B. Ford, Director of skills and education attainment, joined the commission staff in August of 2019. She delivers program support to ensure that the Commission members are equipped to meet goals and policy recommendations on how to advance the state's workforce development system. In this role, she also works with committee members to assess the current workforce system and supports strategic planning and research efforts to identify the best practices, goals and opportunities for alignment and improvements. Prior to joining the Commission, Tracie served as the associate director of communications at The James B. Hunt Jr. Institute for Educational Policy and Leadership and public information specialist for the Renaissance Computing Institute, both affiliated with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Before relocating to North Carolina, she held key leadership positions at the Eastern Division of the West Virginia University Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center as director of community relations and development, and executive director of Main Street Martinsburg, Inc. Collectively, these experiences inspired a passion for equity and access in workforce development and education. Tracie holds a bachelor's degree in communications and a Master of Public Administration, both from West Virginia University.

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Commission Staff



Lynn Lyle joined the NCWorks Commission in December 2019. Her current role is Executive Assistant to Annie Izod, Executive Director to the NCWorks Commission. Lynn has held various administrative, staff and management positions within the Corporate 500 environment. She has previous employment with the IBM Corporation, Allscripts Medical Technology and the US Post Office. She attended Edinboro State College, Erie, Pa. and is also a US Army Veteran.

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Commission Staff



Veronica H. Green, Director of Local Innovation, supports the Commission by overseeing the NCWorks Local Innovation Fund and highlighting best practices as the author of the Commission's Spotlight on Local Workforce Innovation series. Veronica also serves on the board of the North Carolina Employment Training Association. Prior to her current position she was a Compliance Examiner for the North Carolina Community College System, she also enjoyed her role as a high school teacher in Onslow County.

Veronica has served as Recruiter, Special Projects Coordinator at Coastal Carolina Community College and Career Readiness Coordinator at Cape Fear Community College. These roles afforded her the opportunity to teach Adult Basic Education classes for students earning high school credentials. Other classes included Life Skills courses for students diagnosed with developmental disabilities. Her successes include assisting military personnel in career training as they transitioned to civilian life. Veronica is a North Carolina native who was raised in Jacksonville, NC, and is a proud graduate of Winston Salem State University.

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