

Rhoades, David E

From: SYNC - N.C. Department of Commerce <feedback@nc-sync.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 5:24 PM
To: Rhoades, David E
Subject: October 25, 2016

October 25, 2016   

[Email the Editor](#)



Sweat equity: Commerce Secretary Skvarla worked on the roof for several hours with Habitat Wake's President Kevin Campbell

NC Commerce Teams Up with Habitat Wake to Build N.C. Home

Volunteers from N.C. Commerce joined state employees from N.C. Health and Human Services and N.C. Revenue to build a Habitat for Humanity home at the North Carolina State Fair. The 10-day construction project resulted in a home that is now being moved to a neighborhood in east Raleigh.

The state government agencies partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Wake County to build The North Carolina House. The home showcases North Carolina materials and craftsmanship, along with the 'can-do' volunteerism of state employees.

'Career Center on Wheels' Aids Hurricane-Stricken Robeson County



Robeson County storm victims filed for disaster unemployment assistance with the help of the Commerce NCWorks Mobile Career Center staged here at the Bill Sapp Recreation Center in Lumberton

State officials deployed the NCWorks Mobile Career Center to Robeson County on Friday, October 14th to give residents affected by flooding the opportunity to apply for state and federal disaster assistance.

Residents used the center's computers to apply for state-level emergency unemployment benefits and disaster assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The mobile unit, which made half-day visits to Maxton and Rowland,



NCCommerce@Work with Habitat for Humanity of Wake County

"State employees tackle many important issues in their day to day work" said N.C. Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III. "Now, as volunteers, they will be applying their talents to another worthy cause — building a home for a deserving family."

Fairgoers watched the home come together while participating in a series of contests and games at the construction site adjacent the James B. Hunt Horse Complex. The North Carolina House is being given to Anayo Offia and Chinyere Okafor. The couple, originally from Nigeria, also participated in the home's construction throughout the event.

"We are grateful to the State Fair and Lowe's for leading the way in building the North Carolina House," said Kevin Campbell, President and CEO of Habitat Wake. "We are blessed by donors, volunteers, businesses, and congregations in our community who build with families who otherwise could not afford to buy their own homes. The North Carolina House is a celebration of local support and will be a safe, affordable home and dream come true for this family."

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- [Habitat for Humanity of Wake County](#)

Commerce Secretary Salutes Apprentices at Charter Communications

also distributed food, clothing, diapers, personal hygiene supplies and water.

"In the aftermath of a natural disaster, people need quick access to resources to begin the recovery process both at home and in their businesses," said Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III. **"When you see the NCWorks Mobile Career Center you know you're in the right place to get help."**

The NCWorks Mobile Career Center moved on to help people in Fairmont, Lumberton and Pembroke last week, October 17-20th.



An inside peek of The NCWorks Mobile Career Center being used for disaster assistance

The mobile center offers career counseling, resume preparation, free Internet access, and help with NCWorks.gov, the state's workforce development portal for job seekers and employers. The vehicle can be deployed upon request and is used for job fairs, veterans 'stand-down' events, and business sites receiving Rapid Response services during company closures or staff reductions.

Governor Pat McCrory's NCWorks initiative unites Commerce's Workforce Solutions, the NCWorks Commission, the NC Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Community College System to strengthen the alignment of workforce services, training programs and related resources to meet the needs of businesses and individuals. For additional information, visit www.nccommerce.com/ncworks.

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- [NCWorks Commission](#)



Secretary Skvarla highlights Charter Communications Apprenticeship Program. He is joined by former apprentices, now full-time employees Silas Dobbins (left) and Devin Stewart (right)

North Carolina Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III, traveled to Matthews to join executives at Charter Communications today for a *Spotlight on Apprenticeships*. The event was held October 24th at the company's training center in Matthews.

"Apprenticeships are the perfect example of how Governor Pat McCrory's administration is working with businesses and educators to continually improve our workforce readiness strategy," Sec. Skvarla told the crowd gathered at the company's training center. **"As companies like Charter Communications team up with NCWorks Apprenticeship, they are tapping a resource that can fine-tune skills around their unique talent needs."**

Charter Communications (NASDAQ: CHTR) is a leading broadband communications company and the second largest U.S. cable operator. The company currently has more than 600 active apprentices in North Carolina, making it the largest apprenticeship program in the state. Nearly half the company's apprentices are military veterans. Each apprentice pursues four years of formal study and experience-based learning leading to a Broadband Technician certification.

"Apprenticeship combines on-the-job training with classroom instruction, both of which are integral to our technicians' career development and delivering an outstanding customer experience," said Charlene Keys, Area Vice President of Operations, Charter Communications. "Apprenticeship has been particularly helpful in recruiting and providing career opportunities for veterans who have completed their active-duty military service and are starting careers in the private sector."

Currently, 562 North Carolina employers offer apprenticeship programs, which are part of Governor Pat McCrory's vision for

- [North Carolina Department of Public Instruction](#)
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Governor McCrory Announces Disaster Assistance for 35 Counties

Governor Pat McCrory announced that Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available in 35 counties to help people recover from the massive flooding caused by Hurricane Matthew.

"Entire towns have been destroyed with record flooding from Hurricane Matthew, meaning many businesses and employees have been directly impacted," said Governor McCrory. **"This assistance will help those suffering during these difficult times to begin rebuilding their lives."**

To date, 35 counties have now been approved for federal individual and public assistance and 9 counties have been approved for public assistance only. As joint preliminary damage assessments continue, the governor said he is hopeful that other counties will meet the federal criteria for a disaster declaration.

Since the Expedited Major Disaster Declaration on October 10, the federal government has disbursed more than \$41 million to disaster survivors through the Individual Assistance Program. To date, more than 52,000 North Carolinians have already registered for this assistance.

Workers who became unemployed as a direct result of the effects of Hurricane Matthew impacting North Carolina, may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits under the DUA program. Business owners affected by the storm may also qualify for benefits.

Get more information here:

<https://desncc.com/DES/Static?page=faqMain#DUA>

maximizing the state's workforce development programs and resources. Currently, there are more than 4,600 active apprentices. Known as NCWorks, the initiative includes NC Commerce Workforce Solutions, the NCWorks Commission, the NC Department of Public Instruction, and the North Carolina Community College System. For more information about NCWorks, visit www.nccommerce.com/ncworks.

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NCWorks Commission Certifies New Career Path

The NCWorks Commission has approved and endorsed a new way for people in the Cumberland County area to prepare for careers in Collision Repair and Refinishing Technology. The recommendation, known as an NCWorks Certified Career Pathway, is an education and training plan designed by employers in collaboration with North Carolina's workforce development and education professionals.

"People can't start a career without knowing the skills and credentials they'll need to be successful," said Will Collins, executive director of NCWorks. "That's why these career pathways are so important. Employers lead the way by working with our workforce and education agencies to provide the skill and training workers need to meet industry demands."

NCWorks Certified Career Pathways are being developed for high-demand jobs in many industry sectors to assist students and adult job-seekers. Career pathways outline high school and college courses, certification and degree credentials, and experience required by employers in the area seeking to fill jobs in specific fields. Local employers lead the development of career pathways by working closely with NCWorks teams.

The NCWorks Commission certifies the Pathways. NCWorks is part of Governor Pat McCrory's goal of strengthening the alignment of state and local services and resources to meet the workforce needs of businesses, connect North Carolinians to technical training and quality careers, and use data to monitor and assess program outcomes. For more information, visit www.nccommerce.com/ncworks.

Small Business Owners

The federal disaster declaration could make you eligible for the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loans. These are low-interest, long-term disaster loans for physical damage and working capital. Small Business Recovery Centers are now open at Fayetteville State University and East Carolina University.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Fayetteville State University
Small Business & Technology Development Center
Small Business & Economics Building, Suite 306,
Rooms A & D
1200 Murchison Road
Fayetteville, NC 28302

PITT COUNTY

East Carolina University
Small Business & Technology Development Center
Willis Building
300 E. 1st Street
Greenville, NC 27858

ROBESON COUNTY

Opens Wednesday, October 26th

Robeson Community College
Workforce Development Center (Building 18)
5160 Fayetteville Road
Lumberton, NC 28358

For more information visit the SBA's Disaster Loan Program at www.sba.gov/disaster

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- [Disaster Unemployment Assistance](#)
- [SBA Disaster Loans & Grants](#)

N.C. in the News

[The Commerce Department's second-term plan](#)
(Greensboro News & Record - October 22)

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RIA Approves Nearly \$2.6 Million in Requests Creating 200 New Jobs

On October 20th, Governor Pat McCrory announced that the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) had approved 10 grant and loan requests totaling nearly \$2.6 million. The requests include commitments to create a total of 200 new jobs.

"One of the top priorities of my administration is connecting North Carolinians to better infrastructure by ensuring that every community has the building blocks for economic development and job creation," said Governor McCrory. **"These loans and grants will enable our smaller towns and counties to better focus on business and job growth."**

Since its creation by Governor McCrory and the North Carolina General Assembly in 2013, authority members have approved nearly \$120 million in grants and loans.

"The availability of modern infrastructure and ready-to-go buildings is necessary for restoring North Carolina's white-picket-fence communities," said Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III. "Working alongside the NC Commerce team, the Rural Infrastructure Authority partners with the state's less populated communities in creating jobs, growing businesses and attracting economic investment."

The Commerce Secretary serves as a non-voting member of the Authority, which also formulates policies and priorities for grant and loan programs administered by NC Commerce's Rural Economic Development team. Details of the awards may be found at http://www.nccommerce.com/news/press-releases?udt_4733_param_detail=193731

Read More

- [Press Release](#)
- [Rural Development Division](#)

[FEMA: 24,000 apply in N.C. so far; 'that number is rapidly changing'](#) (*Fayetteville Observer* - October 14)

[NC governor struggles to win credit for economic comeback](#) (*Associated Press* - October 22)

[Sierra Nevada wins overall excellence manufacturing honor](#) (*Ashville Citizen Times* - October 18)



About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

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