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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Johnston County Certified as a Work Ready Community

Raleigh, NC, June 22, 2017 – [Capital Area Workforce Development Board](#) (CAWD) is pleased to announce that Johnston County has been certified as a Work Ready Community. The certification recognizes a workforce that is a cut above when it comes to demonstrated real-world job skills.

“Johnston County is experiencing incredible growth. Adding this designation creates yet another competitive differentiator to businesses looking to open or expand and need talent. Meeting the requirements was not easy, but all of the partners working together made it happen which is indicative of the level of collaboration needed to make a common vision come to pass,” said Pat Sturdivant, Executive Director at Capital Area Workforce Development Board.

“Achieving Work Ready Certification in Johnston County is a tremendous accomplishment for our county and communities,” said Chris Johnson, [Johnston County Economic Development](#) Director. “This certification shows the commitment of the industry, small businesses, county, towns, chambers of commerce and our economic development and educational partners to provide a viable and educated workforce. With the ever increasing competition for projects both regionally and globally, a strong workforce is becoming an increasingly important piece as we move forward with marketing Johnston County and creating jobs for our citizens.”

To become certified, a county must gather a pre-determined number of business supporters and meet other [criteria](#) based on their population, including Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) attainment by emerging, current, and transitioning workers. CRCs are an evidence-based credential that certifies the holder’s skills in reading for information, applied mathematics, and locating information. These skills are required for most jobs, making the CRC a valuable credential as the individual moves between jobs.

Over 6,500 individuals have earned CRCs which are administered by [Johnston Community College](#). Eighty [businesses](#) affirmed the value of the credential and contributed to achieving the designation.

Work Ready Communities was designed by [ACT](#), renowned for education and workforce solutions that help guide individuals to education and career success. The initiative is in keeping with CAWD’s philosophy of economic development through workforce excellence.

About Capital Area Workforce Development Board

CAWD is a public-private partnership and 501(c)3 largely funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014. Through collaborations with business, government, education and others in Wake and Johnston Counties, the organization has developed state and nationally-recognized workforce programs, connected businesses to the education system and workforce resources, and helped thousands to gain employment.