



**Capital Area Workforce Development
Board Meeting**

December 4, 2025

Park Alumni Center - Raleigh, NC

Board Members Present:

Kenneth Angeli, NCWorks Career Center
Mark Bertoncino, Buhler Aeroglide
Doug Blizzard, Catapult
Rodney Carson, SAS, Inc.
Michael Haley, Wake County Economic Development
Sue Holaday, Summit Design & Engineering
Brian Holland, Sectigo, Inc.
Paul Kane, HBA-Raleigh-Wake County
Vic McCormick, Johnston Community College
Cameron McNeill, Guild
Shawnice Meador, Public Ed Works
Nicole Jarvis Miller, Brigham Hospital
Jerry Pedley, Mertek Solutions
Melissa Short, Transitions LifeCare
Jill Straight, Dorcas Ministries
Tom White, North Carolina State University
Ross Yeager – Wake County Northern Regional Center

Staff Present:

Pat E. Sturdivant, Executive Director
Shanae Artis, Wake Local Reentry Council Coordinator
Martrice Askew, Behavioral Health Case Manager
Barbara Brothers, Business Engagement Director
Desiree Charrette, Contracts & Accounting Specialist
Tyler Daniel, Small Business Manager
Reginald Edwards, Reentry Case Manager
Katie El Tannir, Reentry Resource Consultant
Rose Fisher, Workforce Development Program Consultant
Drew Fitzgerald, Hospitality Marketing Coordinator
Corey Hutcherson, Youth Outreach Coordinator
Arva Gathers, Workforce Development Program Consultant
Sharon Jones, Resiliency to Work Program Coordinator
James Johnson, Reentry Program Manager
Karriem Kanston, Small Business Advisor
Natalie Mabon, Regional Reentry Manager
Jessica Locklear McLeod, One-Stop System Director
Thomas Pulickal, Business Manager
Jamie Reyno, Healthcare Outreach Coordinator
Brent Royal, Accountability Specialist
Kima Sidberry, Workforce Development Program Consultant
Evidence Thomas, Senior Accountant
Malinda Todd, Assistant Director
Briana Troy, Reentry Case Manager
Jasmin Volkel, Strategic Initiatives Manager
Crystal Waters, Executive Assistant
Brenda Wilkerson, Communications Manager
Keith Williams, Reentry Employer Engagement Consultant
Joseph Wilson, Small Business Program Coordinator

Guests Present:

Michael Ballen, Wake LRC
Dedrick Battle, Wake LRC
Chaquita Breland, NCWorks Career Center-Chatha
Angela Brinker, Ajinomoto
Judy Cairns, Silver Linings
Stephanie Deese, NCAWDB
Terrence DeFranco, Iota Comm
Jasmine Fryar, NCWorks Career Center-Raleigh
Simone Gardner, Wake LRC
Kenneth Gathers, Equus Workforce Solutions
Courtland Gingles, NCWorks Career Center-Raleigh
Isabella Hamon, NCWorks Career Center-Raleigh
Duane Holder, Wake County Government
Ivette Hughes-Serrano, EDSI
Annie Izod, NC Commerce
Nikia Jeffries, NCDHHS
Taylor Kirks, JCI Industries
Don Mial, Wake County Board of Commissioners
Suraj Rai, NCWorks Career Center-Raleigh
Margaret Robertson, Coastal Carolina Community College
Liam Samodal, NCWorks Career Center-Raleigh
Chase Sapp, Wake LRC
Deborah Shafeei, NCWorks Career Center-Raleigh
Mike Shank, Pardoned by Christ Ministries
Henry Simmons, NCWorks Career Center-Raleigh
Gurdeep Singh, NC Works Career Center-Raleigh
Kenya Smith, JCI Industries
Ann Sochia, Silver Linings
Isaiah Thaxton, Energy Wise HVAC Solutions
Sharon Thaxton, Energy Wise HVAC Solutions
William Thaxton, Energy Wise HVAC Solutions
Tone Terrell, TNT Developers
Ribhi Treish, NC Works Career Center-Raleigh
Theo Walker, Wake LRC
Nicole Wallace, Transformation Counseling
Zac West, Sanford Contractors
Sommer Whitaker, DAC
Kyle Winters, Sanford Contractors

Item	Discussion	Actions		
		What	When	Who
1. Call to Order	Brian Holland, Board Chair, welcomed the group to the CAWD Annual Partners' Holiday Breakfast. Brian acknowledged the Board members, stakeholders, partners, and distinguished guests.			
2. Action of Minutes & CBO Grant Award	There were no additions or changes to the September 25th Board meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as written. Brian Holland reminded the Board that, as mentioned in the September meeting, an RFP was issued for community-based organizations to deliver programming for out-of-school young adults ages 16–24 who face barriers to employment. He reported that the Executive Committee, at its November meeting, voted to approve funding in the amount of \$78,957.68 for the Hope Center at Pullen. The award will support workforce services and work-based learning opportunities specifically designed for youth transitioning out of foster care.			
3. Year in Review	Brian emphasized that the accomplishments of the past year were made possible through strong collaboration with employers, educators, community-based organizations, and training providers. He highlighted the substantial progress achieved in advancing CAWD's mission to strengthen the regional workforce system and expand opportunity across Wake, Johnston, Lee, Orange, and Chatham counties. The customer experiences highlighted throughout the presentation reinforced the transformative nature of CAWD's services. Testimonials from individuals seeking reemployment, career advancement, or support following justice involvement expressed that NCWorks Career Centers, NextGen services, and Reentry partners provided exceptional guidance, compassionate support, and clear pathways toward stability and economic mobility. This year's results reflected a coordinated, high-performing workforce system strengthened by strong partnerships and a shared commitment to improving economic outcomes for individuals and employers throughout the region.			

	<u>CAWD-Annual-Holiday-Partners-Presentation-Dec-4-.pdf</u>			
4. Recognition Award & Partner of the Year Award	The Governor's NCWorks Awards of Distinction honors outstanding contributions within North Carolina's workforce development system. Melissa Short acknowledged that former Vice-Chair Rodney Carson received the Bill Ragland Private Sector Award for Outstanding Achievement in Workforce Development; an honor that reflects his long-standing commitment to strengthening workforce pathways and championing employer engagement. Melissa Short, Board Vice-Chair, introduced the inaugural Capital Area Workforce Development Board Partner of the Year Award. She noted that the award was created to honor an organization that embodies the very best of what partnership means; innovation, collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to helping individuals build skills and access meaningful careers. The first-ever award was presented to Energy Wise HVAC Solutions. Energy Wise has been a remarkable partner to CAWD, providing hands-on training and meaningful career opportunities for young adults. Their innovative approach integrates technical instruction with real-world application, resulting in stronger program completion, improved job readiness, and high satisfaction among both participants and employers. William Thaxton, Executive Director of Energy Wise, accepted the award and shared brief remarks with the Board.			
5. Guest Speaker	Tom White, Secretary, announced that Board Chair Brian Holland has been elected to serve as a board member for the National Association of Workforce Boards. He noted that this appointment reflects Brian's leadership and the region's growing visibility in statewide and national workforce initiatives. Tom introduced the guest speaker, Josh Hirsch, AI Strategist. Mr. Hirsch delivered a presentation titled <i>"From Speed Bumps to Solutions: Practical AI for Today's Workforce,"</i> focusing on how artificial intelligence can be applied to streamline processes, enhance service delivery, and strengthen workforce outcomes.			

	<i>From-Speed-Bumps-to-Solutions -Practical-AI-for-Todays-Workforce.pdf</i>			
6. Adjourn	Brian Holland thanked everyone for coming. He reminded Board members of the next meeting on March 26, 2026.			
Meeting Adjourned: 10:30 am				